

NEWS SUMMARY

Teacher banned over IRA charge

A schoolteacher who denies recruiting her pupils into the junior wing of the IRA has been banned from teaching by the Northern Ireland education authorities.

Parkland Plea on killing preserved

The site of what is believed to be England's second-oldest parliament has been presented to the Open Spaces Society to be preserved for the public.

Carriage for Duchess

The Duchess of York is to learn carriage driving at the £18-an-hour centre run by the Duke of Edinburgh at Sandringham.

High life for Duke

The Duke of Edinburgh spent more than an hour clambering around the rotten roof timbers at Ely Cathedral in Cambridge-shire yesterday.



Champagne cure

Mrs Davina Thompson, who was given a new heart, lungs and liver this month, celebrated with a glass of champagne when she was allowed out of the intensive care unit at Papworth hospital, near Cambridge, for the first time since the operation on December 17.

Call for 10-year freeze on African debt

The present level of debt, which totals about \$388 billion, swallows up a quarter of the developing world's earnings. In some cases, the interest repayments alone have exceeded the total national income in many years.

Unicef's deputy director and the former head of the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University, argues that the existing approach embodies "an economic error of the most fundamental sort".

and in many African nations." Acknowledging the need to lay the foundations for sustained economic growth but calling for "adjustment with a human face".

Tories back grant reform as price rises hit students

A Conservative-controlled select committee will embarrass the Government next month when it calls not only for a substantial increase in student grants, but also, it seems likely, for the abolition of parental contributions to students over the age of 21.

The upshot, they fear, is that potential students, who by any other definition are independent of their parents after the age of 21, are being deterred from higher education or being made to suffer indordinately.



Mr Gordon Ettridge and his wife Carole wait at home in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, hoping for a call from their daughter, Samantha, who has been missing since Christmas Eve.

Tories argue on law change

Continued from page 1 senior party figures, including Mr Michael Grylls, chairman of the backbench industry committee, Mr Ottaway wants the courts to award interest calculated on a daily basis and payable 30 days after notice in writing has been given of the intention to claim interest on a debt.

creditors to sue for interest on the late payment of a debt if they have started proceedings before the sum is paid.

has probably in his mind written off the possibility of ever getting any further business from that company.

Small companies wait 70 days for payments

Despite a new code of practice small businesses are still having to wait about 70 days for large companies to pay their bills, the Forum for Private Business says.

The problem is likely to get worse because a new regime of prompter VAT payment puts additional pressure on the cash and credit resources of small businesses, Mr Mendham says.

Fewer over-55s stay in jobs

A sharp decline in the number of men aged over 55 still in employment is disclosed in the General Household Survey (1972-84).

Priest says he is barred from visiting Maze

The Northern Ireland Office and its prison authority were accused yesterday of siding with a Roman Catholic bishop involved in a long-running dispute with a diocesan priest who has been refused facilities to visit a former parishioner in the Maze jail near Belfast.

Docklands project threatened by loss of grant

officially as "green space" less than 15 years ago, when the Docklands Strategic Plan was conceived to revive the blighted area of east London.

The transformation of a combination of community park, field studies centre, educational small holding and riding school began with an idea in 1974 by Kate Heron, the architect and landscape specialist.

that the clay areas are quite fertile, supporting thick growth of large plants: horseradish, nettles, docks, comfrey and tall grasses.

Advertisement for sparkling wine featuring a bottle and the text 'What do 7 1/2 bottles of our wonderful \$2.65 Cavalier bubbles add up to, Mr. Clark...?' and 'A sparkling 1987, Mr. Johnstone...!'

Advertisement for Docklands project with text: 'The largest inner-city environment and ecology project in London, involving the reclamation of 32 acres of wilderness, is under threat.'

Labour believes it has a safe seat

Local residents in Greenwich are surprised to see the forthcoming by-election in their parliamentary constituency in the newspapers as a crucial contest in a highly marginal seat.

The fact that at the last general election the Labour MP, Mr Guy Barnett, who died on Christmas Eve, had a majority of only 1,211 is dismissed by the man in Greenwich High Street as a freakish aberration.

SDP fortunes are on the wane

their new man, Mr John Antcliffe, is one of the 12 Tories on Greenwich council. He represents Blackheath ward, which is just outside the parliamentary constituency.

It is accepted that Greenwich Labour party, which has been dominated by the hard left since the late 1970s, will choose a fairly extreme left candidate to follow Mr Barnett, a moderate.

The likely runners include Mrs Deirdre Wood, who was one of Greenwich's GLC councillors and is still its Ilea representative. As chairman of Ilea's staff committee she commands a powerful patronage but her selection would be "worth several hundred votes to the SDP" according to a middle-class Greenwich resident of 20 years' standing.

There is, though, one strong and popular local contender who could prove even more embarrassing to the Labour leadership than any of the better-known names mentioned so far. He is Mr Eddie McParland, a vociferous and undeniably capable Greenwich councillor who has in the past made no secret of his sympathy for the Militant Tendency and its supporters.

Far left in control of local council

Austin-Walker, was chosen to succeed Mrs Wise (who has now found herself a safe Labour nomination in Preston) as Labour's challenger to Mr Cartwright in Woolwich.

With 45 seats the Labour group on Greenwich council has a majority of 27 over all other parties, and although the far left has been firmly in control since 1979 the council has never reached such well-publicized heights of allegedly "loony" leftism as Islington, Brent or Haringey.

There has been no suggestion of any unconstitutional proceedings in the local Labour party, and it is highly unlikely that they will now give the national leadership an excuse to impose a moderate candidate, as happened at Knowsley North. However, and however extreme, is Greenwich Labour party's choice as candidate, that is the person who must be rated the most likely to become the constituency's next MP.

RAF crewmen defy blizzards to rescue cliff plunge climber

A helicopter crew of four risked death in a blinding snowstorm to reach a climber badly injured in a 700ft fall. Driving snow, low cloud and darkness meant that visibility was so bad the crew had to wear special night vision goggles to see what they were doing.

"He could not brake himself and shot over the edge and fell 700 feet. It's an absolute miracle that he even survived." While the team lowered themselves down to where Mr Hogan lay injured, the Sea King, from RAF Boulmer in Northumberland, was called in.

A spokesman at the RAF base said: "Our chaps say it was one of the hairiest missions they've ever been on. They had very little room to manoeuvre and at some points could barely see 50 yards. With the turbulence and snow the way it was, that made it a particularly risky operation."

Arts in demand

£3m boost for foreign tours

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

The growing reputation of British actors, musicians and other artists overseas is to be given a boost by the British Council next year.

In spite of complaints of lack of government funds, the council is supporting more than 500 events ranging from a National Theatre debut in Egypt and Israel, to performances of Britten's *War Requiem* in East and West Berlin and an inaugural tour of the Arab world by a leading rock band.

British representation with Jeffrey Tate conducting, assisted by Grami Llewellyn, the Welsh conductor, and 10 young British musicians in the orchestra of 120.



A 321-ton load causing a traffic tailback on the M4 yesterday on its way from Avonmouth, Avon, to Didcot, Oxfordshire. The load, a transformer for a power station, was carried by an 18ft wide, 22ft truck with 112 wheels (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

£100,000 reward to find killers

By a Staff Reporter

The brother of the murdered Greek fashion tycoon, Aristos Constantinou, yesterday doubled to £100,000 the reward for information about the killers, and spoke of a tape recording he said contained vital new evidence.

Cottage fire kills sisters

Lucy Malone, aged 15, and her sister Osyth, aged four, died in a house fire yesterday in spite of their father's efforts to save them.

Siege man is found shot dead

Armed police found a dead man lying beside a shotgun when they searched a house after a siege in south-east London yesterday.

Thugs set dog on top athlete

Eamonn Coghlan, Ireland's world champion athlete, may have to call off his forthcoming American tour after two thugs set their dog on him as he was out on a training run in Dublin.

BR looks at cheap first class travel

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

British Rail is to examine the possibility of reintroducing cheap first class day return tickets, which were abolished in 1983.

Three boys of eight wreck junior school

A junior school has been almost completely wrecked by three boys aged eight who are too young to be prosecuted.

20 police hurt in Christmas violence

Twenty policemen have been injured during brawls in towns in the Thames Valley over the Christmas period. The officers needed hospital treatment after being called in to restore order during a series of disturbances, in town centres, and outside public houses and social clubs, which began on Christmas Eve.

Portfolio Gold Winnings go into the kitchen

The winner of the weekly Portfolio Gold prize was Mrs Vera Brooks, of Hove, East Sussex, who will receive £8,000. Three readers shared Saturday's daily Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000, each receiving £1,333.

BP to drill for oil in Sussex

East Sussex County Council has given BP permission to drill for oil and gas at Hartfield on the Kent border.

Disability win

DHSS officials have agreed that Mr Andrew Potts, aged 19, of Hawthorne Avenue, Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent, who has only one leg, is eligible for a disability allowance.

Parent butted by councillor awarded £410

A parent whose nose was broken when a councillor butted him at a meeting called to discuss a school closure has been awarded £410 by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Lake search

A team of police divers will today begin a search of Ullswater in the Lake District for Mr Gerard Devlin, a lawyer who has not been seen since last Tuesday when he left for his office near Glasgow.

Head's award

The French government has made Mr Peter Downes, headmaster of the Hinchingsbrook Secondary School at Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, a chevalier of the Ordre des Palmes Academiques in recognition of his services to French culture.

Train death

Matthew Ellis, aged 19, of Crawfield Green, Baglan, Port Talbot, died yesterday after falling from the London to Swansea train as it travelled through Pyle, South Wales, at 70 mph.

Getting better

The condition of Wynford Vaughan-Thomas, aged 77, the broadcaster, was slightly improved in hospital in Haverfordwest, Dyfed, yesterday. He was admitted for tests a week ago.

The Normans who dug themselves in

The wild rabbits that live either side of the B2141 road in the parish of West Dean, near Chichester, West Sussex, are some of the best bred in Britain.

The decline and fall of the warren came in with the Hanoverian dynasty. By 1729 a document complained, "it is more notorious than coney" (the old name for rabbits).

Oliver Cromwell the rabbits flourished. By 1682 the warren contained 900 breeding pairs of rabbits let out at a rent of £45.

They ransacked classrooms, wrecked furniture, smashed windows and trophies and daubed obscenities. They also ripped pots and plants, crushed clocks and artwork from walls, tore books to shreds and wrecked out telephones at Painside school, Newbridge, Gwent.

Mr Roger Thomas, the headmaster, and his staff seven are spending their holidays cleaning up. Gwent police said: "It is the worst act of vandalism we have ever known but the boys are below the age of criminal responsibility and cannot be prosecuted."

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PAKISTANI	12'x9'	\$1,150 \$690	AFGHAN	12'x9'	\$360 \$175
HAMADAN	12'x9'	\$1,150 \$690	BAIKAN YABRIZ	10'1"x7'11"	\$1,200 \$675
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MAHLE	12'x9'	\$2,250 \$980	CAUCASIAN KAZAK		\$3,200 \$1,400
FINE RESHAN	6'x3'6"	\$175 \$50	BELOUCH		\$2,500 \$1,900
TURKISH KHILLIM	6'x3'6"	\$175 \$50	TABRIZ	4'10"x3'1"	\$95 \$50
BOKHARA TABLE MATS	8'x5'	\$2,800 \$1,350	CAUCASIAN SHIRVAN	12'x10'	\$2,100 \$1,100
GUICH SIK	8'x5'	\$6,800 \$2,000	BELOUCH	6'1"x4'2"	\$295 \$145
ISPAHAN	8'x5'	\$2,800 \$1,350	JAJUR		\$65 \$25
NABAY-PAST SIK	6'2"x3'7"	\$900 \$225	SHIRAZ		\$45 \$25
OLD AFSHAR	6'2"x3'7"	\$900 \$225	PUSH BOKHARM		\$45 \$25
SINHER	24"x3'10"	\$900 \$225	OLD ANATOL	9'8"x5'10"	\$400 \$195
KANAK	8'1"x3'12"	\$2,400 \$2,000	SARAKAN	5'1"x3'1"	\$165 \$90
SILK HERKE	6'2"x4'3"	\$275 \$195	RUSSIAN	10'1"x2'3"	\$2,600 \$1,250
SILK KAISEN	7'2"x4'3"	\$275 \$195	SAKAKAN	5'3"x1"	\$110 \$55
NELAS	6'1"x3'10"	\$275 \$195	SIKKIANG		

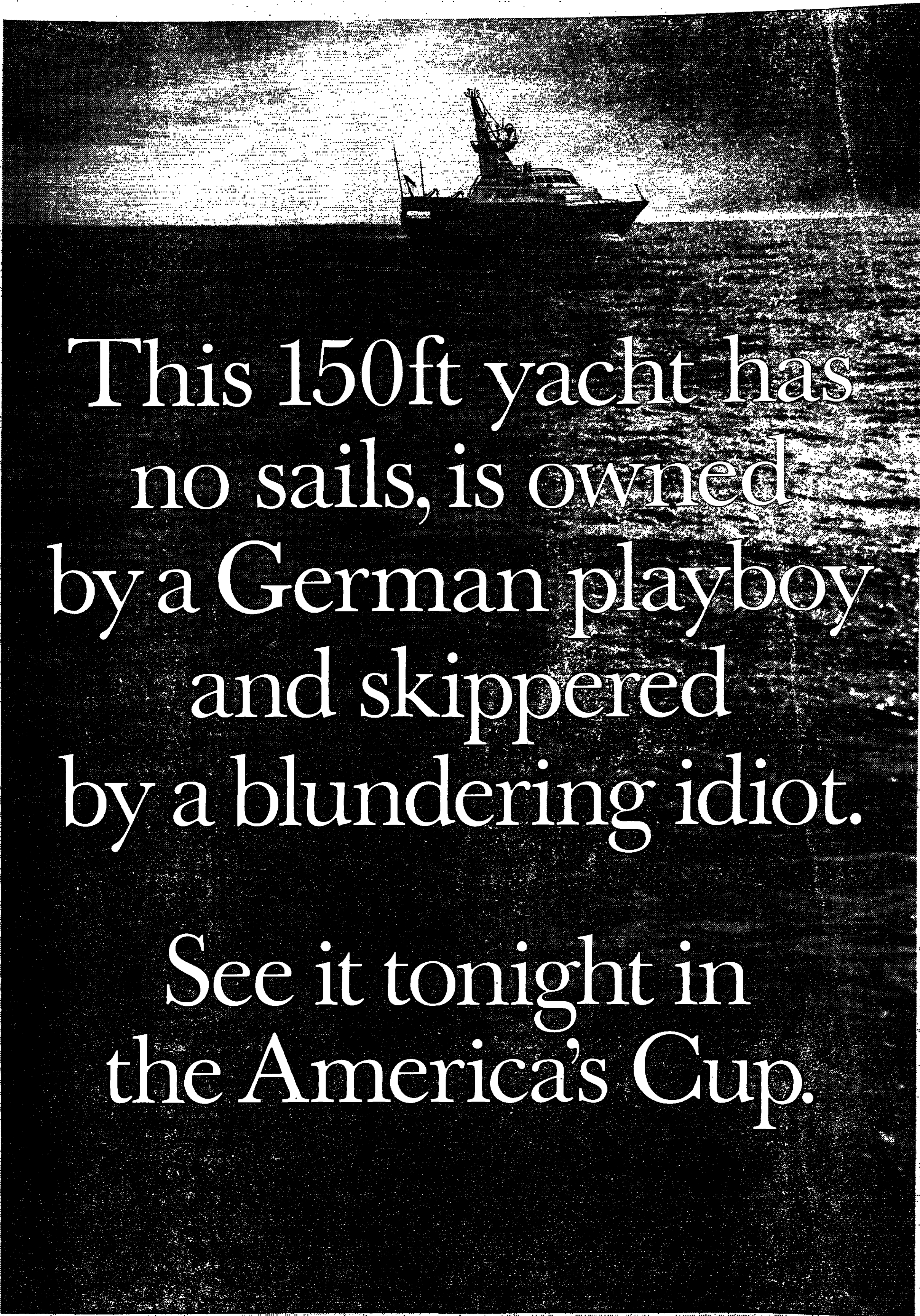
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مركز أمن الاعمال

Longest

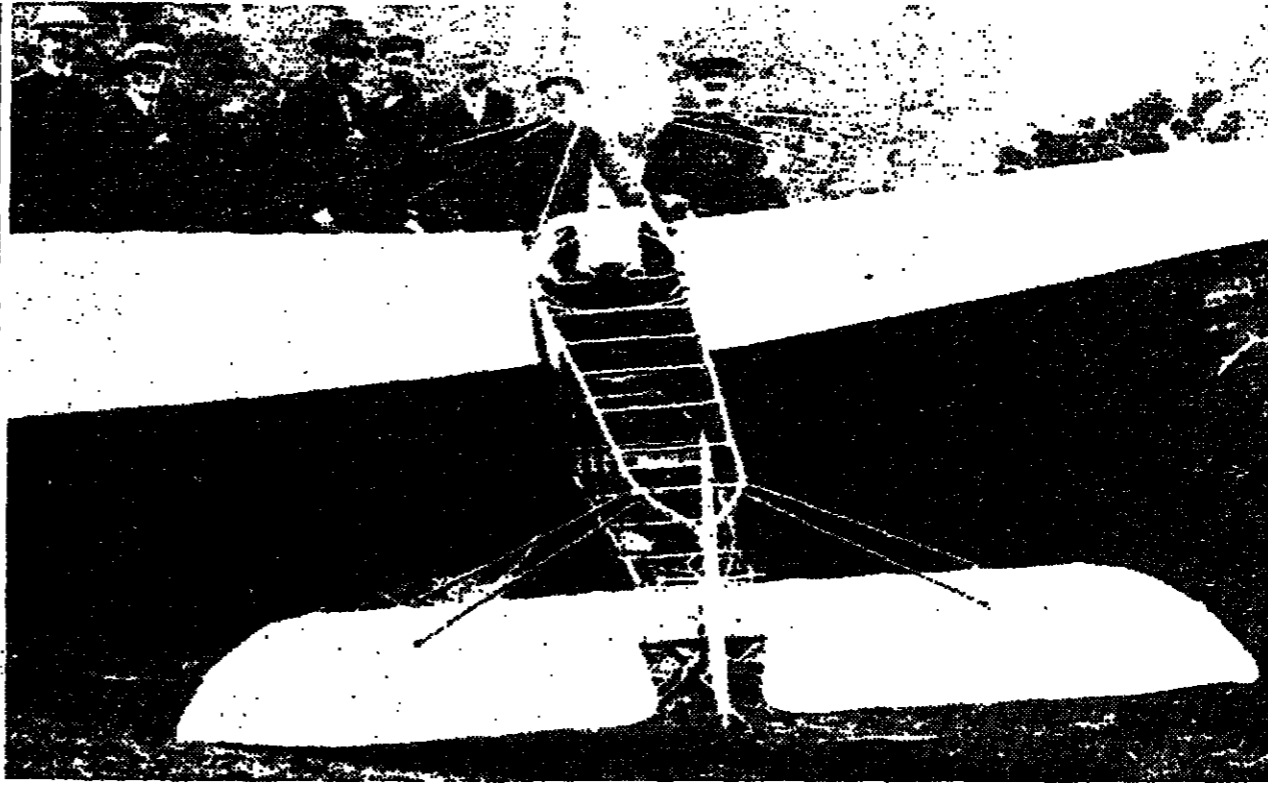
Housing finance: 1

Building firms wary as societies step up development plans

Allowing building societies to act as property developers... Mr John Spalding, director and chief executive of the Halifax...

From January 1, The Building Societies Act 1986 will enable societies to offer consumer credit and insurance and undertake housing development with estate agency work.

not work out well, they will be acceptable... Mr Coultie said: "We are not going to build houses ourselves... Several of the largest building societies are now ready to play an increasingly important part in providing much needed housing...



Denys Corbett-Wilson's aircraft in a field soon after completing the first crossing from Britain to Ireland.

Pilots' sea flight to be celebrated



Denys Corbett-Wilson (left) and D L Allen.

A tragedy and a triumph of aviation will be commemorated in Wales and Ireland next spring with plaques for two pilots who competed to make the first flight between the two countries 75 years ago... Each took a different route; but while Corbett-Wilson landed his single-engine Blé-

Brontës' home may be turned into flats

Property developers are likely to turn the former Brontë parsonage at Thornton, near Bradford, West Yorkshire, into flats or small homes... Mr Robert Hopper, Bradford council's arts and museums officer, said the authority had looked at the building and decided it could not justify buying it either on its own or as part of a museum development.

Royal plea on saving church

By Charles Kneveitt, Architecture Correspondent... Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has intervened personally over the future of St Mary's-in-the-Castle, one of the finest Regency churches in England...

New telescopes to probe deep space

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor... A new generation of telescopes that would greatly increase the range of observatories is proposed for research by British astronomers... The Willstrop design is not the largest instrument recommended in the report.



Road threat to offices

By a Staff Reporter... The Welsh Office is proposing to route a by-pass through a newly-built £100,000 tourist information centre... Work on the £10 million scheme is expected to start in 1988.

Longest road inquiry ends

By Our Transport Correspondent... After sitting for more than 200 days, the longest public inquiry ever held in Britain into a road-building proposal has been completed... Major roadworks were either completed or suspended by

- M WATCH... London and South-east: M275 Hampshire... Midlands: No major roadworks likely to cause delays... North: M1 South Yorkshire... Scotland: M8 Glasgow...

Making industry more attractive is all a question of pull.

Industry Year 1986 began against decades of negative industrial attitudes... We've made and distributed, for instance, technology films and videos for schools... Quality at work for Britain.



Quality at work for Britain.

WORLD SUMMARY

Iacocca not interested in being President

Detroit (Reuter) — Mr Lee Iacocca, the chairman of Chrysler, said he does not want to be President of the United States because in a few years the American economy will be in such a crisis that he would not know what to do.

Four shot in car Appeal to police

Peshawar (Reuter) — A local political leader was shot dead in his car with two of his sons and a brother near here in the latest outbreak of a 10-year-old family feud, police said yesterday.

Amnesty nearly over

Warsaw (Reuter) — Poland's Communist authorities have been increasing pressure on leading opposition supporters to moderate their activities during the final days of an amnesty offer to political opponents, diplomats said yesterday.

Fighting in Chad Open to visitors

N'Djamena (Reuter) — Troops loyal to the former Chadian rebel leader and Libyan ally Goukouni Oueddei, yesterday fought Libyan soldiers in the tiny town of Chad's Tibesti mountains, official sources said.

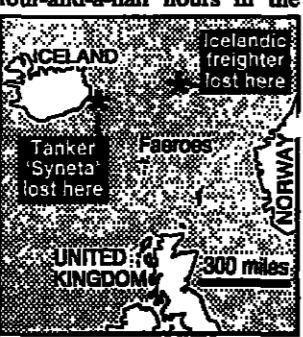
Plea to help free spy

Tel Aviv (Reuter) — The wife of the US Navy intelligence analyst, Jonathan Jay Pollard, who was convicted of spying for Israel, has urged the Israelis to help free her husband.

Iceland shipping disasters

Survivors owe lives to Nimrod crew

Reykjavik (AP) — Survivors from the Icelandic freighter Suderland, which sank on Christmas Day, said yesterday that they owed their lives to a British reconnaissance plane which dropped a new lifeboat as they huddled near death in a leaking dinghy.



The five survivors from the 11-member Icelandic crew of the 3,500-ton Suderland arrived in Reykjavik late on Saturday via the Faroe Islands, where they were taken by a Danish patrol ship, the Vaederen. A helicopter from the Danish ship plucked the survivors and three bodies from the lifeboat.

The only way out of the Gare du Nord



A lone traveller waiting for a possible train in the deserted Gare du Nord in Paris and, right, passengers boarding a bus for Brussels outside the station.



Passengers boarding a bus for Brussels outside the station.

Hopes rise for Paris rail pact

A small ray of hope has appeared that the hardline positions of both strikers and management in the French railway strike, now in its 11th day, may soften.

The lonely wait for a coach

The huge metalwork structure of Paris's Gare du Nord resembles a carcass. Almost all activity inside the railway station has ceased and the more deserted areas have become a limbo world where solitary footsteps attract the attention of the down-and-outs and weirdos who seem to have moved in in force.

Fresh twist in Iran arms saga

A report that arms-for-hostages talks began nearly a year earlier than Washington has admitted may cause some embarrassment in Anglo-American relations today.

Threat posed by Soviet special forces

The author, Colonel Michael Hickey, argues that unlike the risk of nuclear war, the threat at the lower end of the military scale is growing. He believes that Britain is a more vulnerable and tempting target than any other Nato country, its vulnerability stemming from a failure to take precautions and its key role in European defence.

Seven killed in Bavaria hotel blast

Seven people were killed and 36 others injured in a winter sports resort hotel in Bavaria on Saturday rose to seven yesterday when rescue workers recovered another body from the wreckage.

Shia village boasts of its teenage martyr

The people of his Shia Muslim village are rejoicing over a recent Iranian decision to honour posthumously a local teenager said to have killed at least 75 Israeli soldiers 4½ years ago.

Pretoria faces nuclear queries

By George Brock and Andrew McEwen

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, was asked yesterday to establish whether South Africa plans to use a remote island territory for nuclear testing.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linnithgow, posed the question after a report that South Africa plans to build a £4 million runway on Marion Island, 1,200 miles south of Cape Town.

Officially used only as a rather station, the island is said to have been visited by South African and Israeli military officers in the past two years. A flash spotted in the air in 1979 by an American satellite was interpreted in some quarters as evidence of a nuclear test.

The Transport Department, which operates the island, also disclaimed any knowledge. South Africa has always refused to comment on persistent claims that it has developed nuclear weapons.

He claimed that weapons-grade uranium could be produced at the Valindaba uranium-enrichment facility near Johannesburg and plutonium from the Koeberg power station near Cape Town.

Tehran honour for suicide bomber

The people of his Shia Muslim village are rejoicing over a recent Iranian decision to honour posthumously a local teenager said to have killed at least 75 Israeli soldiers 4½ years ago.

Banks become competitive

Countdown to Budapest's 'Big Bang'

The communist equivalent to the Big Bang begins soon after the New Year champagne corks stop popping.

Western observers, swamped by reports from the City and Wall Street about fortunes lost and won, Hungary's financial revolution may well seem small beer, more of a big whimper than a Big Bang.

At the moment the Hungarian National Bank is the equivalent of the Bank of England - and is also responsible for handing out loans to factories and industries.

All enterprises pay the same fixed interest and have no choice as to where to deposit their money. This is the standard communist practice: the bank is essentially part of the state machine.

From the New Year, five new commercial banks will be created and, though they will be given start-up capital, they will then have to generate their own income.

In theory at least, they can also become business partners with go-ahead companies (which since the early days of the Hungarian reforms have

Banks fighting for customers, unprofitable factories to be closed down, several hundreds of workers to be laid off in pursuit of a more streamlined economy; the great capitalist beast is straining at the leash in Hungary as it prepares on January 1 to embark on an extraordinary set of new reforms.

had a considerable degree of autonomy from the central authorities).

The Hungarian National Bank will remain the central and reserve bank, keeping a monopoly on foreign exchange and the issue of the currency, the forint.

Some form of stock ownership will link the five new commercial banks with the national bank. The idea is to raise more capital.

Profitable companies are

Banks will be able to offer different rates of interest and will actually have to scramble to be attractive to customers

not using their earnings to good effect in Hungary, but under the new system they will be able to switch bankers (after a six-month grace period) to take advantage of better interest.

Also foreign banks will find it easier to lend to Hungary. That is good news for the state budget which will not be

Hungary's economy Part 1

burdened by debt repayments on new lending - the commercial banks are going to have to repay whatever they borrow.

Western bankers are already preparing for the Budapest Big Bang - Citibank has a well-established branch and others have been trailing through the bureaucratic undergrowth - and Hungarian experts believe that the new freedom for banks will encourage joint ventures which always have notoriously complex banking arrangements.

But one of the main effects of the banking reform will be to give some bite to Hungary's bankruptcy legislation. Last year some 260 companies were making a loss or were short of funds and 152.8 billion forints (£2.3 billion) were spent on assisting them.

Many of these companies should have gone to the wall. Instead the national bank, at the behest of the relevant ministries, bailed out almost all of them.

Will commercial banks, which swim or sink on the question of profitability, be so generous? Most experts think not.

Hand in hand with the bank reform there is also a complete change in attitude to debt, profitability and responsibility.

Factory managers are themselves responsible for keeping their enterprises alive - not the supervisory ministries. Similarly it is banks who are responsible for making sure that there is good housekeeping in industry.

The developments on the bond market - the first in the communist world - follow this logic.

It is for banks and their clients to find capital.

Last year the value of bonds issued on the official market was about 400 billion forints (£270 billion). Thus the Budapest telephone system, to finance modernization, issued interest-bearing bonds which were picked up with the alacrity of British Gas shares, Sid or no Sid.

From the New Year the State Development Institute, which shelters this budding stock market, will be issuing bonds to cover the state's budgetary deficit. That makes more sense than printing more money, the traditional Soviet bloc method of covering deficits.

Tomorrow: How the reforms bite.

Israeli police clamp down after Vanunu's revelations

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israeli police went to great lengths yesterday to make sure that Mr Mordechai Vanunu, The Sunday Times' informant on Israel's nuclear bomb-making capabilities, had no contact with the press when he appeared in the Jerusalem District Court to plead not guilty to charges of treason and aggravated espionage.

When he appeared before the court a week before he managed to write a message on the palm of his hand suggesting that Israeli agents kidnapped him in Rome to bring him to Israel. Yesterday, the authorities made sure that he would not make another revelation in the same way.

The van that brought him from his top security prison to Jerusalem had curtained windows so that he could not repeat his trick of pressing his palm against the glass for photographers.

An even more effective precaution was the decision to convey him to the court at 5am for a hearing which began at 8.30, so he arrived in semi-darkness before any photographers were there.

At the end of the secret hearing lasting an hour-and-a-half, he was escorted out by a large group of police with a black bag over his head and a bright red umbrella held over him to make sure that if he made any hand signals they could not be seen. The van then sped away back to the prison.

His lawyer, Mr Amnon Zichroni, made the plea for him in the court and he did not speak at all during the hearing, which was adjourned for six weeks.

The prosecution has indicated that it will not press for conviction for treason,

since no actual state of war exists with Israel. But conviction on the lesser charge still carries a mandatory life sentence.

Mr Zichroni has demanded that all his client's papers, books and Walkman tape-recorder be returned to him and an application for them is to be made through the High Court if this is not done promptly. This might mean Mr Vanunu would have to make a further appearance before the court shortly.

Rome flight: Mr Vanunu used his own name when he booked a flight from London to Rome, despite warnings to avoid identifying himself. The Sunday Times reported yesterday (Andrew McEwen writes).

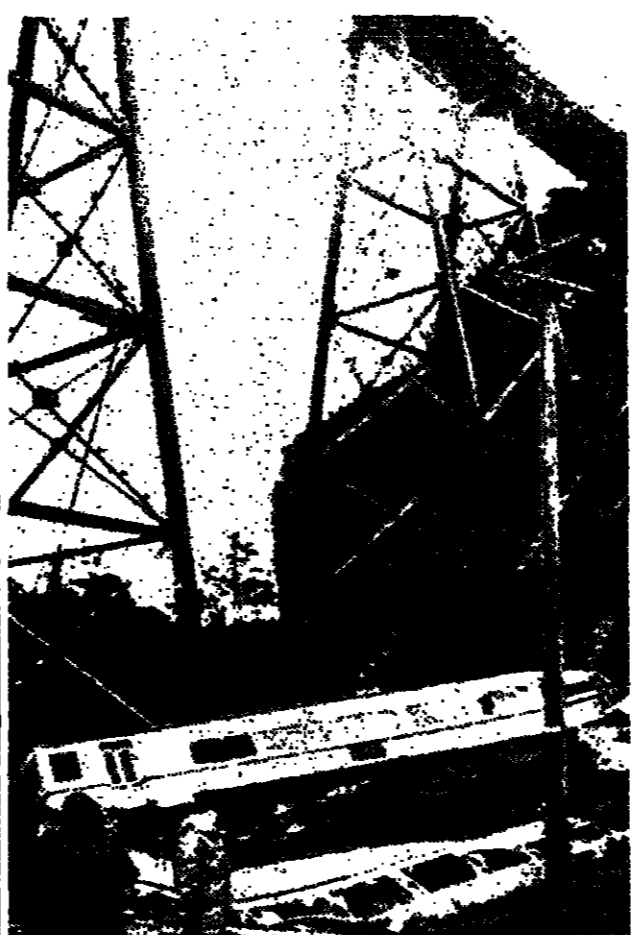
The paper said that he bought a British Airways return ticket and booked the outward-bound journey on flight BA 504 on Tuesday, September 30.

It was not known whether he travelled alone or accompanied, but before checking out of his London hotel he collected a telephone message left by a woman called Cindy which said: "I am waiting where we arranged to meet."

It has been suggested that Cindy may have been an Israeli agent.

Three hours before the plane's departure Mr Vanunu telephoned the Sunday Times Insight team, to which he had revealed details of Israel's nuclear bomb-making facilities.

He said he would make contact again the next day, but within two hours of clearing customs in Rome he was picked up by Mossad, the Israeli secret service, the paper reported.



Train falls on factory

An excursion train that had just let off its 180 passengers yesterday plunged 135ft off a bridge, killing six people, most of them in a factory below, (AP reports from Tottori, Japan). Six-and-a-half carriages of the eight-carriage train fell off the bridge (above) "like match boxes... one after another, starting with the last car", a witness said. A National Railways official said a wind gust of up to 54 miles an hour was reported to have hit the train. Five of the dead and three of the injured were among 12 people working in a crab processing plant below the bridge.

Jerusalem editor gives up battle

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Mr Akram Haniyeh, editor of the East Jerusalem newspaper A-Shaab, was deported from Israel yesterday after giving up his legal battle against an expulsion order issued by the military authority in the occupied territories.

Mr Haniyeh, whose case won support from many Israeli journalists as well as Arab ones, abandoned his appeal to the High Court because the bulk of prosecution evidence, alleging that he was an activist for the outlawed PLO was kept a secret so that he was unable to do anything to refute it.

In a statement issued before he was deported he said: "I am the victim of political revenge for my struggle as a political person, as a journalist and as a writer, to achieve the legitimate right of my people. Those who consider that

the policy of deportation will undermine the just struggle of our people for independence and peace are mistaken. My deportation... will not change our just and legitimate rights including the vested right to remain in our land."

Mr Haniyeh's lawyers both tried to persuade him to continue the case, which they regarded as raising important questions of precedent.

Like other East Jerusalem editors, Mr Haniyeh has never disguised his support for the PLO.

Moratorium sought: The Mayor of Bethlehem, Mr Elias Freij, called over the weekend for a year's moratorium "by land, by sea, by air, by knives, guns and pistols, by everything" to create a better understanding between Israelis and Palestinians "who are destined to live together" (Ian Murray writes).



Mr Haniyeh: never disguised his support for the PLO.

Husain and Mubarak in pre-summit talks

Amman (Reuters) - King Husain of Jordan and President Mubarak of Egypt met yesterday for the second time in five weeks in what diplomats said was an attempt to form a common stand for next month's Islamic conference in Kuwait.

Both leaders are expected to attend the January 26 summit of the 46-member Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), when the Iraq-Iran war, fighting in Lebanon and the Middle East peace issue are likely to be leading topics of discussion.

Mr Ihab Wahbi, the Egyptian Ambassador, said that King Husain and President Mubarak held a working lunch at the King's seaside palace in the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba, but gave no details.

President Mubarak arrived earlier on an overnight visit to Jordan with his wife Suzanne, Mr Ahmed Freni Abdel-Maguid, his Foreign Minister,

and Mr Osama Baz, a top political adviser.

King Husain, attempting to forge a unified Arab policy for the Islamic summit, visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait last week, while Mr Taber al-Masri, the Jordanian Foreign Minister, also went to Cairo.

The King has also campaigned for an Arab summit, but Mr Masri said in Cairo it would be difficult to convene such a meeting "under present circumstances". Egypt and Jordan back Iraq in its war against non-Arab Iran and have closely co-ordinated policy on Middle East peace efforts.

But President Mubarak has so far gained little in his attempts to reconcile King Husain and Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman, who parted company last February in disagreement on how to approach the peace issue.



The last great aviation challenge.

When Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager touched down in the Voyager on 23rd December they had achieved what generations of aviators have only dreamed of. They had flown around the world non-stop without refuelling.

The Voyager, described as "a flying fuel tank," had to fly at least 36,786 km to establish the official record. A flight of that distance without refuelling meant that the weight of every item aboard had to be minutely considered. Every gram counted. But so did reliable time-keeping. Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager made certain that they allowed for the extra 190 gm contributed by their Rolex Chronometers.



ROLEX of Geneva

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Pretoria faces nuclear queries

By George Brand and Andrew McEwen

How the South African government plans to establish its nuclear deterrent is a subject which has been the subject of a report by the International Panel of Experts on South African nuclear activities.

The report, which was published in the Sunday Times, says that the South African government has been very secretive about its nuclear programme.

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A Times campaign this year focused attention on the problems created by soaring house prices. Today we look at the results

How housing was forced into the open

In September, *The Times* launched its "Home Front" series — an investigation into the sometimes cruel impact of rising house prices (see pages, right). The series focused national attention on the crisis and, along with the Duke of Edinburgh's report on housing, led to a more uninhibited debate of the problems. Since then there have been significant political and commercial initiatives which promise to go some way towards easing the difficulties.



Public attention has been focused on mortgage lenders whose lending criteria were growing too lax, thereby helping to swell a disturbing increase in repossessions. The Treasury is relaxing its opposition to the mix of public and private finance to provide rented housing. Guidelines designed to prevent building societies from taking too many risks with investors' deposits are soon to be issued by the newly formed Building Societies Commission. Housing associations and building societies report growing enthusiasm for shared-ownership schemes.

Next month, the Law Commission is to publish its report on protecting buyers from gazumping, recommending the voluntary payment of a deposit by both vendor and buyer before exchange of contracts. The Law Commission has called for an urgent overhaul of mortgage laws and consumer protection rules to give greater protection to borrowers. A new "right to buy" publicity campaign will be launched by the Government in the new year, encouraging council tenants to buy their homes and offering bigger discounts for those buying their flats.

The Government is backing the "right to rent", encouraging people to rent, and is extending its assured tenancy scheme. Through the Housing Corporation, a major government initiative is supplementing public funding by supporting schemes using 30 per cent public money and 70 per cent private funds.

An all-party campaign called on the Government to increase the financing of housing associations, which have already been given bigger grants for building and redevelopment. The Birmingham Settlement Money Advice Centre raised enough money — thanks to *The Times* series — to launch a nationwide "hotline" offering help to home-owners in arrears.

Fifty High Street housing advice centres will be set up by the Government. These represent a few steps towards resolving a problem which still requires urgent action. At a time when the Home-Builders Federation is warning that first-time buyers are being priced out of the market, we report on ways of taking some of the sting out of setting up home.



On to the first rung

A relatively little known way to take the sting out of home-buying is the shared ownership scheme. Two families, who discovered the scheme, almost by accident, are the Macdonalds and the Moodys.

Brian Macdonald and his wife Teresa tried for some time to move on to the housing ladder from the Tower Hamlets council flat in East London in which they had lived for five years, and they suffered the frustrations faced by thousands of first-time buyers.

Only to be told in July last year that the houses on a development called Alestan Beck, West Beckton, had all been taken.

A few days later they were told that one sale had fallen through. They immediately handed over a £100 holding deposit, and in a matter of weeks they had moved into a three-bedroom town house with integral garage and one of the biggest gardens on the development. The Macdonalds now live on a development whose success was marked this summer by a visit from the Duke of Edinburgh, patron of the National Federation of Housing Associations.

selfes to buying outright because they could lose the beneficial index-linked part of the mortgage. That is now not the case, so the Macdonalds will add the last 10 per cent to the conventional part of the mortgage as they must, which will increase that part of the mortgage to £242.45.

The house had to be valued for this transaction. The District Valuer said it was worth £52,500, an increase of more than 20 per cent in just over a year. The building society gave a figure of £54,000 — and a local estate agent put it at £60,000.

Mr Macdonald believes he was fortunate to find out about the shared ownership scheme. "It does not seem to be well known or well publicized. I think it should be advertised more widely."

His main problem, now that he is a total house-owner, is one all others know about — the rates. His bill from Newham council is more than £1,000 a year.

The second couple, Mr and Mrs Tony Moody, admit that they are not great savers. "We live for today," said Mrs Moody, a 32-year-old computer operator.

So when they were about to get married two years ago and were looking for a home in the London docklands area, they had no savings behind them. They were looking for something under £35,000, without success.

Then they heard about a shared ownership scheme worked out by the Nationwide Building Society and the East London Housing Association which would enable them to buy a two-bedroom cottage-style semi in nearby West Beckton for nearly £2,000 more than they thought they could afford.

"We both earn good money (Tony, aged 36, is a self-



House ownership at last: Brian and Teresa Macdonald at home with two of their children, John and Michelle

employed lorry driver) but we wanted our mortgage to be based on just one of our wages," she said. This was because they wanted to start a family immediately.

Under the scheme their total monthly payments, excluding rates, are now £278. Of this £258 goes to Nationwide to repay a £33,210 mortgage on 90 per cent of the initial value of their home.

Half the loan is a traditional repayment mortgage, and to keep monthly instalments as

low as possible for the first few years the other half is funded by a cheaper "index-linked" mortgage adjusted regularly to take account of the prevailing inflation rate. The latter currently works out at about 7 per cent. According to a Nationwide spokeswoman, this arrangement is about £50 a month cheaper than a full, conventional 90 per cent mortgage.

The other 10 per cent is paid to East London in the form of a monthly rent of about £20.

Cardiff leads the way

The prototype for the Government's initiative to mix public and private funds on housing development, and its "right to rent" policy, is a £15 million Treasury-approved scheme in Cardiff, where the Conservative-controlled Cardiff City Council, two housing associations and the Halifax Building Society are combining to provide up to 700 houses on a 36-acre site.

The houses will be let on "assured tenancies", which give security of tenure but are free of rent control and are based on "fair rents" which rise with inflation.

Until now, any scheme involving private-sector finance received no Housing Corporation grant, but the breakthrough is that the public stake will be around 30 per cent, leaving the private sector to provide the remaining 70 per cent.

HELP AT HAND FOR FIRST-TIME BUYERS

The first step on to the housing ladder is becoming more of a leap for more and more people. Sales of houses to first-time buyers in 1986 are likely to be in line with figures which show a decline from 64 per cent in 1982 to 34 per cent in 1985.

It is a bleak prospect, and one that is unlikely to change dramatically unless more land can be released for building, along with increased renting and shared ownership facilities.

In the meantime, first-time buyers are anxious to get into the market before prices spiral even further out of reach — and there is keen competition to capture them as customers. It is a heady mixture and its consequences can be measured in the sharp increase in repossessions.

But there are ways of easing the pain and avoiding the dangers. For first-time buyers a simple booklet, "Buying a Home", is justifiably self-described as "a valuable ally through the minefield of mortgage problems" and is published by SHAC, the London Housing Aid Centre (189a,

Old Brompton Road, London SW5 0AR). The Home Loan Scheme — an almost unpublicized scheme set up by the Labour Government in 1978 — offers a tax-free bonus of up to £110 and a five-year interest-free loan of £600. There is an argument for increasing the benefits of this scheme be-

'Competition to capture first-timers'

cause it has not kept pace with inflation, but the Government has no plans to do so. Forms are available from building societies and savings banks. Some builders still offer package deals, which can include free legal services, fittings and equipment, and 100 per cent mortgages. There is a danger here if the buyer should need to move within a few years because it can become difficult to sell without making a loss and failing to recoup the value of the pack-

age. However, it can provide the answer for a patient buyer. Write to the New Homes Marketing Board, 82, New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8AD.

The Government is enthusiastic about shared ownership, operated through housing associations, in which the buyer owns part of the house and rents the rest. Write to the National Federation of Housing Associations, 175, Grays Inn Road, London WC1.

Building societies and banks offer advice, and the Nationwide, now to merge with Anglia, has just published a step-by-step guide, "The Home Buyers Handbook". The society's rule-of-thumb loan policy is three times the main income plus the amount of a second income. The booklet is available from Nationwide branches.

The New Homes Marketing Board, an offshoot of the Home-Builders Federation, exists to encourage people to buy new houses, and gives advice on where developments are under way, where houses are available and what they cost.

Stephanie Billen © These Newspapers Ltd 1986

Times reporting team: Jack Crossley, Christopher Warman, David Cross and Michael Dynes

Cream tip No. 50

Make some midwinter magic.

Yuletide Chicken.

Take a break from this month's hectic pace with this simple chicken dish. Arrange 4 chicken portions in a shallow baking dish. Blend 150ml (¼ pint) fresh Single Cream with half a can of condensed mushroom soup. Stir in a little crushed garlic, salt and pepper and then pour over the chicken. Bake at 180°C (350°F), Mark 4 for 45 minutes. Serve with jacket potatoes and salad. You'll want to make this magic long after Yuletide's gone!

Get fresh with the cream this Christmas.

Mike Harskin
Mike Harskin is Liberal prospective parliamentary candidate for Brent South, not a Liberal councillor as stated in Spectrum (December 15).

That was the Year that wasn't



They say no cause can be considered truly lost until it has had a year devoted to it, and in 1986, Britain's "industrial revolution" has proved no exception. But as Industry Year marches into 1987 under the new banner of "Industry Matters", for a scaled down continuation of the campaign, what of all the other incarnations of 1986? What really was the year that was?

1986 was Industry Year, Energy Efficiency Year, European Road Safety Year, National Bat Year and International Year of Peace. More modestly, next year is so far designated International Year of Shelter for Homeless People and, from March, European Year of the Environment. Unless of course, you know better. It seems there is nothing to stop you calling 1987 whatever you please, although if you want anybody to know about it you will need more than a little publicity-seeking muscle, and preferably an organization or so behind you.

brought you "Peace" in 1986 and "Shelter" for 1987, not to mention Years of Education in 1970, Women in 1975, and Youth in 1985.

The coming year, in fact, marks the 30th anniversary of the Year to begin all Years; now seen as the beginning of a trend which snowballed, International Geophysical Year took place in 1957. Organized by the World Meteorological Office (WMO), it ran, illogically, from July 1 1957 to December 31 1958. Its practical endeavour was to centralize, standardize and publish the meteorological observations of the WMO's 97 member states.

After that came World Refugee Year 1959, World Mental Health Year in 1960, and International Health and Medical Research Year in 1961. As the motivating effects of a fixed time to focus on became apparent, and with any organization entitled to propose a Year, scarcely a Christmas went by without a new worthy cause waiting on the horizon.

and where possible, to propose instead, celebrations of brief duration.

It made no difference. The very next year, in 1979, the world was celebrating two UN Years at the same time, the International Year of the Child and the International Year of Solidarity with the People of Namibia. As for "celebrations of brief duration", today we are now in the midst of no less than eight full-scale "Decades" ranging from the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade to the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

Who is to say, however, that the more is not the merrier? Keith Howes was both information officer at the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981 (which became a Decade), and consultant director of the much-trumpeted British Film Year in 1985.

wanting to raise their children in the community, or people wanting an arts cinema, problems aired don't go away.

Years are often looking for radical changes. British Film Year was nominally "non-lobbying," but its name was used as the banner for protests on anything from cinema closures to lack of government financing for film production. As Howes says "It's like putting a spade in very dry soil — you have to churn things up."

With each Year, things seem to be churning a little longer. It is not only Industry

Year that doesn't want to end. British Film Year limped on to May 1986, long after its budget was exhausted. The government Energy Efficiency Year, which claims to have had over 150,000 responses to its adverts, is keeping its hotline open till March and retaining its education programme in schools. Even National Bat Year flits on.

No wonder, then, if Chinese residents, preparing to honour 1987 Year of the Hare, choose to regard us as inscrutably polygamous.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1141

ACROSS

- Cask (6)
- Silent (4)
- Due (5)
- Twining stem (7)
- Gently (8)
- Effervescence (4)
- Italian Thousand leader (9)
- Solitary (4)
- Autographs (8)
- Next scores (police) (7)
- Organ theme (5)
- Detect (4)
- Nestle (6)
- Cull leader (4)
- Smack (4)
- First O T book (7)
- Indolent (4)
- Swift horse (5)
- Divine messenger (15)
- Alter (4)
- Turkish cap (3)

DOWN

- Foreign (5)
- Local paper (3)
- Citrus defect site (6,7)
- Hest (4)
- Bus route ends (7)
- Uncertainty (5)
- Indolent (4)

MONDAY PAGE

Under-aged, over the limit

Joe Bardsley, aged 15, is taking seven O levels next summer. He lives with his family in Worthing where his mother runs a drama school. About eight months ago he nearly killed himself with alcohol.

Alcohol kills 10 times more teenagers than heroin. So why, Jenny Woolf asks, are the statistics being ignored?

edge the extent of the teenage drinking problem. A Department of Health and Social Security inquiry among nearly 5,000 youngsters aged between 13 and 17, reported that 29 per cent of 13-year-old boys said they drank at least once a week.

Precisely nothing has been spent to stop kids drinking

had committed acts of vandalism or attracted police attention after drinking too much. Drug agencies working with youngsters report that teenagers are abusing alcohol in a way that has more in common with drug-taking than adult alcoholism.

for young people to show off, but the differences between teenage drinking today and in the past lie in the age that they start, the advertising hard-sell they face and their lack of alternatives to the pub.

A nationwide survey by Exeter University reported that by the age of 11, 56 per cent of boys and 29 per cent of girls drank alcohol at least once a week. The Medical Council on Alcoholism found that in the previous year, 10 per cent of 15-year-old boys had, at least once, been so drunk that they could not remember what had happened.

There are a few one-off alternatives to the pub - a "fun pub" in Manchester, and Worthing's Parrot and Palm cocktail club, a successful and profitable self-help no-alcohol place for 14 to 24-year-olds.

Joe says: "Ask a young person whether heroin or alcohol is more dangerous, and he'll say heroin, because he's seen the horror ads. So why don't we see drink ads about people setting themselves on fire or crashing their cars or choking to death on vomit?"

Alcohol-promoting advertisements are most disturbing, given the disastrous effects of drink on so many teenagers. Naturally, advertising men are sensitive to criticisms of their multi-million pound campaigns. They are, they say, always conscious of the British Code of Advertising Practice, which forbids them to portray alcohol as attractive to under-18s.

McCann Erickson's latest poster for Martini features a young bikini-clad body with the head omitted. Andrew Shingleton, the firm's advertising account director, said: "I don't really think there's any link between sexual attractiveness and our ad. Anyway, if people don't like it, they can always complain to the Advertising Standards Authority."

Don Steele, director of Action on Alcohol Abuse, the independently funded alcohol pressure group, has had long experience of objecting to the ASA about alcohol advertise-



ments. "By the time the ASA responds, the campaign's usually over," he says. "And it's almost impossible to prove that something for over-18s appeals equally to younger people."

The argument that drink advertisements are for over-18s certainly does not impress Joe. He says: "Whoever they are officially aimed at, they appeal to people who like pop music and going out with their friends, joking, wearing smart T-shirts - obviously people from about 13 up."

Sir George Young, who was junior health minister between 1979 and 1981, is considered by health education professionals to have made real efforts to tackle the problems of cigarettes and alcohol abuse. He says: "Young people kill themselves in a different way to older people, and one must tackle their problem differently. It's hopeless ordering them not to drink - you should try to get the message across that drinking isn't smart."

"The facts about alcohol should be readily available to them. I'm all in favour of hitting the advertising industry over the head a bit about this. There should be promotion of alternatives to going down to the

pub and getting plastered. There should also be a strategy on price, because if the price goes up, demand will fall.

"This package will cost money, but I have no idea how much. The first step should be a survey to find out what the situation is, then what it will cost."

Action on Alcohol Abuse is now seeking money to conduct such a survey.

Alcohol has reduced the life expectancy of 16 to 24-year-olds

survey. It will not receive any Government funding. The Youth Service, which should be providing youngsters with alternatives to the pub, has no money and is demoralized. Most of the alcohol teaching material available to schools is sponsored by drinks companies, with the expected omissions and bias.

Most drug projects are not equipped to deal with alcohol

problems and there are no Government-funded projects for young problem drinkers, despite the fact that the alcohol excise duty earns the Government £16,000 million a year.

Alcohol workers were dismayed at a recent television statement by the present junior health minister, Edwina Currie, that "Alcohol is one of the best things the Good Lord has given us." Since the DHSS report, however, she has said: "We recognize that alcohol used wisely and within the law is not harmful, but there is a need to safeguard our young people against the dangers of alcohol misuse."

Sir George Young says: "The Government should get its act together with a coherent policy on alcohol."

When you add up the thousand young people killed by alcohol last year, the several more thousands who were permanently disabled, and the millions more who face a future of dependency and health problems, it is hard to disagree with Sir George. But, as yet, there are few encouraging signs that the Government is about to do anything at all.

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TALKBACK

Twins and trouble

From Philippa Barton, Godfrey Street, London, SW3 3SX

The complacency of Mrs Joan Parkes reminiscing about rearing her twins in 1955 is really quite dreadful (Talkback, Monday Page, December 22). This is 1986 and on another page you report that even two years ago nearly two million children were living in families dependent on supplementary benefit, with the trend increasing.

Today's parents of twins, triplets, quads and more don't have to be single, unemployed or low-paid to suffer hardship though if they are any of those things their plight is even greater. For many of them the arrival of an instant family creates considerable stresses, not only financial but physical and emotional. We know a lot more about these stresses on family life than we did 30 or 40 years ago.

The existence of the Twins and Multiple Births Association (mention of which gave rise to Mrs Parkes's letter) is evidence of parents' need for support - would that there had been such an organization when our twins were born. Most families with multiple children do manage and can enjoy the tremendous fun generated by their simultaneous offspring - when they have time. The exceptions, such as the recent case in Catterick where the mother couldn't cope and the twins starved to death, are a tragic reminder of what some may suffer under pressure. The risk of a birth-damaged baby is greater with twins and more, though with better medical care many more survive; it may be the sibling(s) who experience as many problems as the handicapped child.

New fertility techniques have led to a great increase in the number of instant families. Ongoing research by the International Society for Twin Studies is producing a great deal of new information about the particular needs of families with multiple births.

But it isn't the myth of "double trouble" that concerns the parents. It's the wear and tear on family life, the enormous cost for at least 16 years of providing warmth, clothes, food, shoes, equipment, house-room, travel and everything else for several simultaneous children. Not to mention the physical and emotional stresses of sorting out relationships in such a complex situation with children who are the same yet different. Recent television programmes have illustrated the fact that marital partnerships do not always survive the experience. These are the realities - we can't all be as clever at managing as Mrs Parkes was 30 years ago.

Not so great expectations

I asked a psychiatrist friend whether he would like to come round for a drink during this holiday season. He asked me if I was crazy - a stupid question since he should have been able to tell, one way or the other.

It appeared that he could not stomach a moment to gulp a glass of champagne and a stuffed mushroom because as the year ends, his busiest time begins. In fact, from Christmas Eve until January 2, he feels as though he is running the china department at Harrods, all by himself, on the first day of the sale.

For this is the season when people don't like themselves very much and like other people even less. In fact, they probably ring up their psychiatrists just to escape talking arms with their husbands for "Auld Lang Syne". Unfortunately, it is also the season when nobody is allowed to get into bed alone with only a glass of brandy, which is about the only thing that could make us feel that we could get through another day without crushing one of the Christmas tree ornaments and slicing our wrists with the shards.

PENNY PERRICK



They also force me to lower my expectations further by not offering me big bucks to go to the west of Ireland and produce a slim volume of short stories. Instead, they suggest a pittance to write multi-volume histories of the women's movement. The way to keep one's expectations under control is not to look forward to anything, especially holidays and men, which, next to Christmas, are probably the two main areas which have women turning up at the neighbourhood psychiatric centre without an appointment.

Jenni Murray becomes the new voice of Radio 4's Today

Jenni Murray was suffering from the broadcaster's nightmare, the heavy cold, but she hardly let it show as she presented *Woman's Hour* from Studio B9, in the bowels of Broadcasting House. Listeners heard nothing of the coughs and the snuffles, only the warm, reassuring, professional voice.

She interviewed a studio guest about a campaign for maternity rights. The producer kept on about overrunning but at 3pm precisely, Jenni Murray wished her listeners goodbye, shed her headphones and another programme was over.

Another casually immaculate job, Jenni Murray could murmur and not worry about coughing over the air or, as she once did in her early days in local radio, collapse in a fit of giggles. She was doing a show called *Pets Phone-in* and a woman rang in about the toad in her garden. The creature was in the process of mating and had become stuck the wrong way up. All was described in intimate detail. Hearing the titers at the other end of the line, the caller said: "I do hope you realize this is very serious, Miss Murray." Too late, Miss Murray was by now in hysterics. The episode was taped and found its way on to the in-flight entertainment of British Airways.

From January 3, Jenni Murray will be putting toads behind her as she follows such luminaries as Jack de Manio, Brian Redhead and John Timponson as a regular presenter of Radio 4's *Today* programme. She will set the alarm for 3am, drive through deserted London streets and, at a time of day most of us find indecent, be bright and articulate before up to three million listeners, who usually include Mrs Thatcher. Jenni Murray says *Today* is where she most wanted to be. "I have always listened to the programme, it has been part of my life, and suddenly there I am doing it." She is looking forward to the excitement and unpredictability of handling live news. She will launch the new Saturday edition with John Humphrys. The early start holds no fears and finishing at nine means she will see more of her family, especially her three-

Early bird joins the dawn chorus



Morning calls: a challenging career move for Jenni Murray and a half-year-old son, Edward, "the ultimate handful". When she was expecting Edward, she was a presenter and reporter on the regional programme, *South Today*, in Southampton. She worked, visibly pregnant, almost right up to the birth, and was back on screen a few weeks afterwards. It produced the biggest crop of abusive mail she has ever received, mainly on the lines of "why aren't you at home looking after your baby?" and "can't your husband afford to keep you?" She was not just upset, she was furious. Furious that in 1983 people could still find it strange that a woman could go back to work after having a baby. "Some women are happy to stay at home and that's their choice. But it's not one I could ever make. And it is a terrible duty to expect a man to keep you."

was hardly compatible with family life so when Edward was born he decided to leave the Navy and now runs an art gallery in north London.

Jenni Murray is 36, dark and jolly, and you would never guess from her lack of Yorkshire accent that she was born and bred in Barnsley. As a girl she vaguely wanted to be an actress, and she studied drama at Hull University. Eventually, she came to the conclusion that she would be hard pressed to earn a living on the stage; her practical side took over. She set out to become a journalist and joined Radio Bristol as a copy-taker.

Within two years she was on the air with her own programme, five days a week and loving every minute. She moved to television to do regional programmes from Southampton, then became known nationally as a member of the *Newsnight* team.

Now she is concentrating on radio again and it is a conscious decision. "In television everything becomes so complex. It takes so much longer. In radio there is just an editor, a microphone and you. No one worries what you look like, and for a woman that is terribly important. On television the colour of your eyes becomes more important than what you are saying."

"Even my mother would ring up and say how nice my hair looked and I would say 'but what about the interview with Norman Tebbit?' And she couldn't remember a word of it. But on *Newsnight* I did several film reports from a woman's point of view and it was good to get letters from women, saying that at last women journalists were being taken seriously."

"Television still trivializes women. Look at Angela Ripston and her quizzes, or Selina Scott and her clothes show. Only Sue Lawley has really stuck it out in news. Or look at Julia Somerville. She was an industrial correspondent, for goodness sake. But she goes on the *Nine O'Clock News* and the make-up people get at her and she is looking more like Krystle Carrington every day."

TOMORROW

What will we be wearing in the 1990s? Designer Jean-Paul Gaultier reveals all...

You'll get caught up in Politics on the way to the Theatre.

You'll also find dozens of other categories in the TLS Listings. It's a new, unique, accurate and up-to-date weekly listing of new and forthcoming books. It is organised by subject and genre, ranging from Art through to Zoology, and will include over 10,000 new titles every year. For all those interested in books it is indispensable. The benefits of the TLS - the world's leading literary journal - are obvious. With the introduction of the invaluable TLS Listings you need to be sure of your weekly copy.

Table with columns: Subject Classification, Author, Title, Publisher, Pagination, Hardcover/Paperback, Price, ISBN (hc & pb), Publication Date. Includes entries for 'Theatre and cinema' and 'Dance'.

DANGERFIELD... the history exciting

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES DEATHS

BIRTHS... BARTLE - TISSON. On December 23rd in Colin and Alison (nee Kerry) a son...

DEATHS... AGE-WAINING. On December 23rd in Harold, wife of James Waining, aged 79...

DEATHS... CHAUNTY. On Christmas day 1986 at Harrogate, Thomas Joseph, aged 85...

DEATHS... FRANKS. On December 26th at her home, Greenwood Drive, Boston, Lincolnshire...

DEATHS... FREIGHT. On December 26th 1986 in Battle Hospital Reading, Angela, aged 65...

DEATHS... GIBSON. On December 23rd 1986, peacefully at home in Partur after a long illness...

DEATHS... HARRIS. On December 23rd 1986, peacefully at home, Elizabeth (née Taylor) Harris, aged 84...

DEATHS... HUSTON. On 23rd December, John Huston, aged 85...

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POSTS. SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS. The Education Department of Tasmania has vacancies for qualified Speech Pathologists...

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RENTALS. CRUCIAL EXAMS IN 1987.

RENTALS. CRUCIAL EXAMS IN 1987.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Letter from Moscow
bering thought
or Rent-a-Santa

**Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet**

**STOCK MARKET
(Change on week)**

FT 30 Share
1301.2 (+29.1)

FT-SE 100
1665.1 (+32.9)

Bargains
10000 (31646)

USM (Datastream)
130.19 (+1.33)

**THE POUND
(Change on week)**

US Dollar
1.4580 (+0.0095)

W German mark
2.8664 (+0.0215)

Trade-weighted
69.0 (+0.4)

Oil swap likely with submarine order

**By David Young
Energy Correspondent**

Saudi Arabia is now studying the four offers it has received for the construction of a submarine fleet for its navy, with the likelihood that the order will go to the company prepared to take oil in part payment.

The Saudi government has now closed the bidding for the order with a last-minute offer being submitted by the Rotterdam Drydock Company.

The British bid has been made by Vickers with its new generation of conventional boats. The others are from France and West Germany.

Although the French regard themselves as front runners for the order - they have already equipped much of the Saudi navy - Britain has had considerable experience in oil barter deals with Saudi Arabia.

At present Britain is supplying £2 billion worth of military aircraft and related equipment and is taking part-payment in oil.

The British banking system is also ideally placed to handle an oil-swap deal, with all of the big clearing banks operating counter trade departments who could act for Vickers.

Saudi Arabia plans to place orders for six to eight diesel-electric submarines and is expected to narrow the choice down to two options by early spring and then conduct trials with the rival designs.

BTR ready to pounce on Pilkington

By Cliff Feltham

Hostilities will be resumed this week in the bitter £1.2 billion takeover bid by the industrial group BTR for Pilkington Brothers, the glass group.

Pilkington will attempt to shore up its defences with a big profit forecast while BTR waits in the wings ready to fire off a higher, and potentially knockout, bid for Pilkington before the January 10 deadline.

In the stock market, Pilkington shares have remained well over 100p in excess of the cash and shares mixture from BTR, reflecting the view that the initial offer was no more than a sighting shot.

Interim profits from Pilkington were better than expected and the company's followers are now lifting their expectations for the year from £175 million to about £190 million.

RESULTS

TODAY - Interims: Hidong Estate, Eunston Centre Properties. Final: None announced.

TOMORROW - Interims: Stavert Zigomata. Final: C.A. Spertart, Warner Holidays.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: Arbuthnot Dollar Income Trust. Final: None announced.

THURSDAY - Interims and Final: None announced.

FRIDAY - Interims: Kleinwort, Benson Gift Fund. Final: First National Finance Corp (expected on January 5).

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	11.00%
Adam & Company	11.00%
Adam & Co	11.00%
Citibank Savings	12.45%
Consolidated Grds	11.00%
Co-operative Bank	11.00%
C. Hoare & Co	11.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	11.00%
Lloyds Bank	11.00%
Nat Westminster	11.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11.00%
TSB	11.00%
Citibank NA	11.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

Morgan Grenfell details share sales

New Guinness disclosures

By John Bell, City Editor

The merchant banker Morgan Grenfell confirmed last night that it has given fresh evidence to the government investigation into the affairs of the drinks group Guinness.

Morgan Grenfell acted as the leading financial adviser to Guinness during the £2.7 billion takeover battle for the whisky giant Distillers.

The evidence provided by Morgan Grenfell concerned the details of the purchase of 2.1 million Guinness shares by a subsidiary of another merchant bank, Henry Ansbacher, at prices well above the market level shortly after the end of the takeover battle.

This latest development in the Guinness investigation follows weekend disclosures that Ansbacher's former director, Lord Spens, a former senior executive at Morgan Grenfell, had himself given evidence under oath to the two inspectors appointed by the Department of Trade and Industry to look into the affairs of Guinness.

The evidence of both parties concerns the purchase of 2.1 million Guinness shares by Down Nominees, a Henry Ansbacher subsidiary, at a price of 355p compared with the then current market level of 298p to 316p. The shares were purchased from both

discretionary and ordinary investment clients of Ansbacher.

Details of the transaction were sent to the DTI inspectors on the decision of Ansbacher's chief executive, Mr Richard Fenhall, who was on a skiing holiday in Switzerland yesterday and "not available for comment".

It is understood that Ansbacher maintains that at no time were the 2.1 million Guinness shares held by Down Nominees actually owned by Ansbacher as a principal.

Morgan Grenfell, while making no official comment on its role in the affair, denies suggestions that it made funds available for the purchase of the Guinness shares by Down Nominees, or that it had instructed Down Nominees as to the way the Guinness shares should be voted at a later meeting of Guinness shareholders called to approve the Distillers takeover.

According to the Ansbacher version of events, stamp duty on the purchase of the Guinness shares was paid through Morgan Grenfell, although a Morgan spokesman said that it had no comment to make on the suggestion.

It is understood that a major factor behind Mr Fenhall's decision to offer

DTI seeks early legal action

By Colin Narborough

The Government could still initiate legal proceedings before Parliament reconvenes on January 12 against a civil servant allegedly involved in leaking market-sensitive information about merger decisions to a stockbroker, Whitehall sources said yesterday.

Labour has vowed to put insider dealing at the top of the Commons agenda and Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry,

had originally hoped for results by Christmas from the inquiry into his own civil servants, to disarm any political attack. But the holidays, plus the absence of top DTI officials until next week, have delayed any legal moves. The DTI will be closed today.

After launching insider dealing investigations into City companies, including the brewing giant Guinness, Mr Channon announced on December 18 that outside

inspectors had started an unprecedented investigation into allegations that privileged information was being leaked by officials at the DTI, the Office of Fair Trading and the Mergers and Monopolies Commission.

A DTI spokesman yesterday declined to comment on the progress of the investigation, or whether any civil servants had been suspended or dismissed in connection with it.

UK 'to miss out on next rate cuts'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Interest-rate cuts in the leading industrialized countries are on the way, according to James Capel, the stockbroker. But Britain is likely to miss out on the next round of rate reductions, partly because of sterling's international vulnerability.

Slightish economic growth in the US and continued low inflation, will cause the Federal Reserve Board to cut the official discount rate from 5.5 to 5 per cent during the first quarter, says the broker's *International Bond and Currency Review*, published today.

Similar factors are expected to force the Japanese authorities into a further discount rate cut. Upward pressure on the yen, as the dollar shows across-the-board weakness, is cited as an additional factor by James Capel.

West Germany, the *Review* concedes, is more difficult to assess. Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the finance minister, hinted at the possibility of a reduction in the discount rate, now 3.5 per cent, shortly after the January 25 federal elections.

But the Bundesbank's attitude to lower rates remains highly cautious.

Should a German rate cut not occur, the pressure for a realignment within the European Monetary System will intensify. Even with a rate reduction built into the forecast, James Capel expects an EMS realignment, with a revaluation of the mark, in the spring.

The *Review* maintains that the usual January sterling crisis may be avoided, but political uncertainties and a worsening balance of payments will mean the Chancellor is unlikely to risk early cuts in base rates.

The pound is expected to hold steady, in the £1.40 to £1.45 range.

Foreign buying adds fuel to heated property company market

Year of the overseas takeover

ANALYSIS

A look at 1986 reveals it to be the year of the takeover in the property sector where shares rose by 19 per cent fuelled by intense corporate activity which is still going on.

The novel aspect was the buying of British property companies by foreign investors - a phenomenon which added pace to the already hectic market.

Capital & Counties was the first to succumb to overseas interests, with Liberty Life, the South African insurance company, taking control.

Rodanac, the Dutch investment group, succeeded in winning Haslemere at 600p a share after a dawn raid at 600p. Haslemere's net asset value (NAV) was deceptively revalued at 728p a share.

Property Holding & Investment Trust sprang to life, taking the City by surprise with the effectiveness of its defence against Greycoat Group's £108 million bid. Greycoat's alternative cash offer, of 137.5p a share, was not enough to tempt shareholders and Pfit later put its nav at 168p a share.

Only weeks later the old-established investment company agreed terms of £188.6 million with the Chase Corporation, New Zealand's third largest company.

Bredero Properties, the British developer floated off from its Dutch parent company, must have had one of the shortest independent lives in the sector. After a mere 30 weeks of existence, it was taken over by Slough Estates at 145p a share.

As the year has progressed, takeover bids in the sector have seen a closing of

the gap between bid price and net asset value.

British developers have not been slouches in the corporate world, either. Property companies with a mass of highly rated paper, trading at a premium to net asset value have been queuing up to bid for old-established property investment companies which trade at a discount to nav.

Stock Conversion fell prey to P&O, with shareholders opting for the 720p-a-share cash offer - rather than P&O shares - in the £402 million bid. Stock Conversion later revealed a nav of 770p a share.

Mountleigh, the fast-growing trading company, joined the big league by buying United Real for £117 million, a 28 per cent discount to estimated nav.

And Claydon Properties, a David compared with the Goliath of Samuel Properties, transformed itself into a significant property company by its agreed £85 million merger with Samuel. Claydon's 3.5 per cent stake in Percy Bilton, another long-established force in the property world, has fuelled speculation that it will bid for Bilton.

Property and Reversionary Investments hastened to agree a £59 million merger with Lynton Holdings, knowing that Speyhawk Land and Estates was lurking in the wings. Sure enough, Speyhawk launched a bid with a cash alternative of 300p a share compared with P&R's last stated nav of 310p. The

Jaguar roars past 1,000 a week

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Jaguar Cars gave itself a slap on the back today and said it had ended 1986 "in fine style," having broken all previous production records.

In the last two full working weeks of the year, the company has made 1,023 and 1,026 Jaguars, peaking for the first time the 1,000 cars-a-week mark.

This brings the output for the year to 52,385 saloons and 9,052 XJS sports models, a total of 61,437 which is 8 per cent higher than the 38,500 produced in 1985.

It is the third consecutive year of record production for the company at its Midlands factories, which now employ 11,000, mostly at the Browns' Lane plant in Coventry, West Midlands.

Saloon production includes 4,000 of the new XJ40 model, which is proving to be a considerable success in Europe. The car is to be launched on the crucial US market in the spring.

Mr Mike Beasley, assistant managing director, said: "To achieve record production in a year when a new model has been introduced is a magnificent result and reflects the commitment of all our employees to the company's success."

"We have striven for some years to meet a growing demand for our products and the indications are that we shall have to aim for even greater production in 1987."

Jaguar's profits this year will be held down by the £10 million cost of launching the XJ40 and are unlikely to exceed the 1985 figure of £121.3 million.

Meanwhile, government ministers are now studying the newly submitted corporate plan for Jaguar's former parent company, BL - now the



Small is beautiful: Mr Brown with Mr Harold Silver (left) and Mr Phil Chung.

Top designer joins brain-drain

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Mr Bryan Brown, at 39 one of Britain's leading design consultants, is leaving the Addison consultancy group, one of the top six companies in its sector, to join a growing trend for top consultants to return to the smaller consultancy field.

He has resigned as chairman of Allied International Designers, part of Addison since last September, because, he says, of City investor pressures for short-term profits. He said: "The City is looking for compound growth of 30 per cent a year. That kind of pressure tends to make one think more of profitability rather than about the customers."

He added: "It is the wrong sort of pressure. It is not by chance that other consultancy services which are more established, such as law and accountancy fields, choose to trade as partnerships."

His move will fuel the controversy in the design consultancy field over polarisation into larger units on one hand and on the other the role of smaller design groups.

In the past year, there have been defections by directors of a number of bigger consultancies including Fitch, Saunders Design and the Michael Peters Group.

Mr Brown, a graphic designer, became managing director of Allied in 1979 and subsequently chairman. Its turnover increased from £715,000 in 1979 to £6.5 million in 1985 and it became

Britain's first fully quoted design group.

He is chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's design group and chairman of the design management group of the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers. He is also a regular lecturer at both the London and Manchester business schools.

Mr Brown is becoming a partner with the MarketPlace Design Partnership (MDP), based in Reading, Berkshire, which was set up 18 months ago by Mr Harold Silverman and Mr Phil Chung who was formerly a board director at Fitch, one of the leading British design consultancies.

MDP's clients include Rank, Pan Books, the English Tourist Board and Granada.

Directors paint bright picture

By Our City Staff

Top businessmen are reporting a "dramatic improvement" in company performance, job prospects and confidence in the Government's economic policies, the Institute of Directors said today.

Three out of five directors expect unemployment to fall in the first six months of 1987, according to the Institute's latest business opinion survey.

A 51 per cent majority of businessmen are said to believe that the chances of a Conservative election victory have improved since the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

Mr Graham Mather, head of the Institute's policy unit, said the latest poll was "a strongly positive picture of the economic environment for business".

The survey shows that 67 per cent of directors are reporting an upward trend in the volume of their company's business over the last six months compared with the same period last year.

The poll was carried out in the first three weeks of December among a sample panel of company chairmen, managing directors and other business leaders.

● There is a serious lack of awareness among Britain's company directors of their duties to creditors and up to half a million could be ignorant of their full responsibilities under the Insolvency Act, according to a survey published by the accountancy firm Ernst & Whinney at the weekend.

Under the act which came into force eight months ago, new procedures are introduced today which will provide fresh opportunities for corporate rescue. These cover voluntary arrangements between a company and its creditors and procedures.

Foreign buying adds fuel to heated property company market

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

Council's cash boost to reopen freeport

**By Teresa Poole
Business Correspondent**

The Scottish freeport at Prestwick airport, which recently ceased operations because of lack of business, could be revived next year with the backing of the district council.

Prestwick freeport - one of six experimental free trade zones in Britain - ran into financial difficulties two months ago and had to suspend operations. The Kyle and Carrick district council has now agreed to invest £185,000 in an attempt to start operations again.

At the end of October, after running for two years, Prestwick freeport had only one customer.

Under the proposed rescue, the council will become the main shareholder in Freeport Scotland, the operating company. The other existing shareholders are the British Airports Authority, Clydesdale Bank, and two private companies.

Mr Ian Smillie, the council's chief executive officer, blamed Prestwick's problems on the loss of the zone's special development status within weeks of opening. This meant that Prestwick could no longer compete with the development grants offered in the new town of Irvine just seven miles away.

He said: "The fact is that although the Government agreed to the experiment, they did not have the will to make it work." He hopes to get the zone operating again during 1987.

Originally it was hoped that the zone would create a number of new jobs by attracting high-technology companies from the US.

Prestwick is the first of the freeports to cease trading. However, the operator at Cardiff has suspended further investment until the freeport has signed up a definite customer while progress at Belfast has been slow.

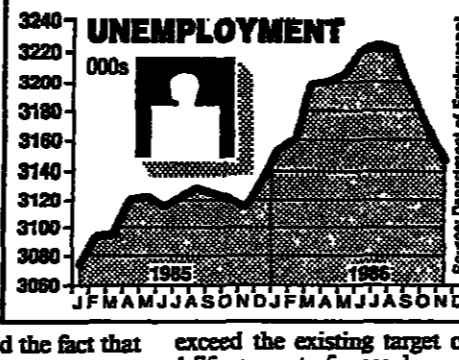
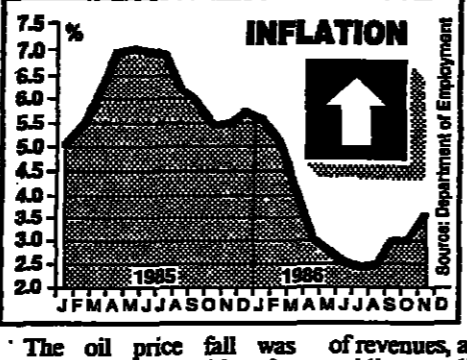
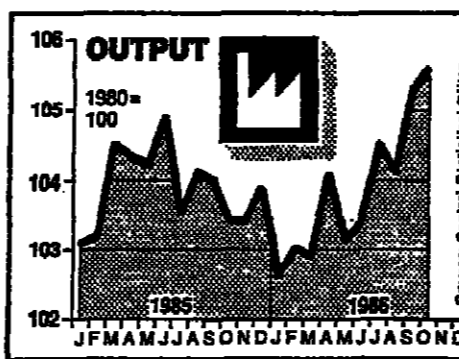
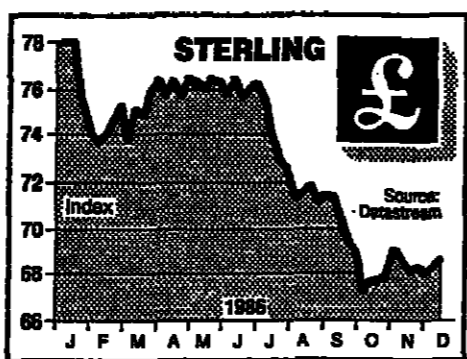
Only Southampton and Liverpool can claim some level of success. Southampton, which has had 36 countries trading through its facilities, announced yesterday that Sumitomo of Japan is to use the free zone as a European stock-holding base for its crates.

ECONOMIC VIEW OF THE YEAR

After the spending spree: will 1987 be Britain's year of reckoning?

It was the year when the prospects for, if not the performance of, the world economy improved sharply. And when talk of a balance of payments constraint re-entered the economic debate in Britain.

Everything changed for oil prices, down from \$30 to \$9 a barrel then back to \$18, for the dollar, with its persistent over-valuation threatening to turn into an under-valuation; and for public spending in Britain, with the Chancellor of the Exchequer becoming a convert to its virtues.



The oil price fall was supposed to do two things for Britain - to leave the Chancellor strapped for cash as the oil revenues fell away and to remove the 'petro' prop from the balance of payments and sterling.

It looks like a fairy tale for a Chancellor in a probable general election year, and there is an element of good fortune about it. The rise in oil prices to \$18 a barrel, if sustained, will add up to £1.5 billion to the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre in the Budget.

of badly missed targets, the Chancellor was able to announce a PSBR undershoot for 1985-86 in his March Budget.

and that, despite considerable money market pressure, was that. When the sterling crisis came, it was later. The markets appear to have accepted Treasury reassurances about the consequences of lower oil prices for the British economy (broadly neutral) and to have held off from selling sterling.

manufactures would stabilize this year at the 1985 level of £3 billion. They were wrong, and the latest prediction, of November, shows a widening of the deficit to £5.5 billion this year and £7.5 billion in 1987.

USM REVIEW

Maturing junior market squares up to the Big Bang challenge

Mr John Dibben, chairman of the luxury kitchen designer Smallbone and the former deputy rider Mr Richard Gabriel shared unusual distinctions this year.

Mr Dibben became the 500th pure millionaire on the Unlisted Securities Market, while Mr Gabriel's Interlink Express courier service nipped across the line to become the 500th company to join the market since it was established six years ago.

overshadowed by Big Bang and fears that it could mean the end of a two-way market in smaller companies with a value of less than £50 million.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table with columns for Base Rates, Cheating Rates, Treasury Bills, and Euro Money Deposits.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table with columns for Sterling Spot and Forward Rates, Other Sterling Rates, and Dollar Spot Rates.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Large table listing various unlisted securities with columns for Company, Price, Change, and % Change.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trusts with columns for Company, Price, Change, and % Change.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table listing financial trusts with columns for Company, Price, Change, and % Change.

Cliff Feltham

GILT-EDGED
Pass-the-parcel as rates come bumping down

Now that the dust has settled on the changes in the gilt market since the 1985-86 Big Bang, it is clear that the main beneficiaries of the changes so far have been clients of gilt market-makers — principally the main insurance companies, pension funds and building societies.

Compared with the old market, competition between the 27 market-makers means that it is possible to do quite substantial business in gilts much closer to current middle market prices. Since most deals are now done without commission directly with the market-maker, this means that the overall cost of buying or selling gilts for a big institution could be as low as one or two tenths of one per cent — as low as 0.03 per cent and 0.06 per cent.

Even though one must allow for the "outside" market-makers becoming "inside", the modest increase in customer turnover in gilts is perhaps a little disappointing, given much cheaper it is to deal. However, it may well be that the market is in a transitional phase.

For example, there does not seem to have been much business where institutions have tried to execute substantial orders much larger than the ordinary market size of £2½ million or so. Indeed, there is some evidence that those investors who used to do larger deals have tended to split their business.

However, competition for such substantial orders as there are, has been intense. It is not obvious that those who have split their business are doing better than those who are dealing in size. Accordingly, one increase in turnover could come fairly soon.

The widely expected increase in volatility induced by market-makers trading activities has yet to materialize. However, given investors' relatively cautious stance in gilts over the past few weeks, and the steady pace of funding by the authorities, this is not too surprising.

Another symptom of the relatively low level of serious trading business is the way in which turnover is still split between a lot of different issues rather than concentrating on leading stocks. In the twenty-first century stocks, it is true, turnover has been largely concentrated to three that are closely related to the gilt futures contract. But in seven to 15 year stocks, our own dealings suggest that although one stock (Treasury 12 per cent 1995) has about one-quarter of the turnover, the rest of the turnover is widely spread.

To make the new year a happy and prosperous one for the gilt market-makers, there has to be an increase in gilt turnover, not just in inter-dealer turnover, although it seems reasonable that such an increase should occur, the longer term future of the market will only be assured when investors and speculators realise how cheaply business can now be executed.

These figures show that total turnover in gilts has been running at a rate of about £16 billion per week during the period of 1986 after October 27, compared with about £7 billion per week on average before Big Bang.

However, a large part of the increase in turnover has come from dealings between the market-makers — on average, about £9 billion per week. So at first sight, even though it is much cheaper now to deal than formerly, the customer business is broadly unchanged from the approximate £7 billion per week before October 27.

This conclusion, which does seem rather surprising, requires some justification in the light of the fact that the customers doing the business post Big Bang are a smaller group than those before that date. Because the number of gilt market-makers expanded from seven to 27, it means that 20 previous customers became market-makers themselves.

In short, in gilts with a maturity of up to five years, for example, customer turnover has fallen by one quarter since Big Bang, and now runs at about £2½ billion per week. This is partly because a lot of the institutions in the banking sector such as discount houses who are now also gilt-edged market-makers were previously contributing substantial amounts to recorded customer turnover in short gilts.

In long gilts of more than five years to maturity, it seems that most of the new market-makers were not doing substantial business until the last few months of the old market. In this area, turnover of customer business at about £4½ billion per week, is perhaps £1 billion per week higher than before October 27.

One might argue that, because the market has at times been rather quiet over the past two months, these turnover figures might be misleadingly low. That this is not so is indicated by the volatility of the market.

In the period for which we have statistics post Big Bang, the volatility of the market was 8.1 per cent, which on the previously estimated relationship would predict a turnover of some £31 billion on a monthly basis. The actual answer is £32 billion. This discrepancy is well within the margin of error for this kind of statistical model.

The reason why the volume of customer business is important is that, obviously, the increase in turnover between the market-makers just represents a gigantic game of pass-the-parcel which does not lead to any direct benefit in terms of profits to the market-makers.

There is, however, a considerable indirect benefit as these inter-dealer dealings enable positions to be taken which otherwise might not be. So the risk of the market-makers' business is reduced even though the return is not enhanced.

Richard Golding
 Dr Golding is head of bond market research at Kleinwort Grieveson Charlesworth

COMMENT
A Scrooge Star for Hanson

What an extraordinary business year it has been. When it opened, the Westland drama had yet to reach its unbelievable climax and half a dozen takeover bids or mergers worth £1 billion or more were already on the table. Officially, it has been Industry Year. But, in reality, it was always going to be the City's year, as the Stock Exchange transformed itself into a new competitive high-tech place of the future and the Financial Services Bill tardily made it a safer place for investors.

Neither Industry Year nor the City's year worked out quite as planned. Industry's main role was to be bought and sold over more frenetically. The City, having bought and sold most of itself — even individuals and small teams put themselves up for auction — was hoping the year would reach its scheduled climax on October 27, the day of the Big Bang. But brokers and dealers had barely realized that Big Bang referred to the noise of thousands of computer fuses blowing simultaneously, when they were thrown to the floor by the insider trading earthquake.

Such an eventful year has produced a host of notable individual achievements, many of them intentional. Some will be recognized in the New Year's Honours List. But not enough. To fill this gap, the column is again making its own supplementary awards for Business and the Related Arts.

Several candidates for the top award, that for Supreme Achievement, fell heavily before the end of the race. Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman of the Stock Exchange and a previous winner, had been marked in the diary as a strong runner. His personal role in the City revolution can hardly be overestimated. But frankly, the climate is not ripe. In any case, he had to compete with a towering Victorian figure, whose stature seemed to grow month by month. This year's Supreme Achievement must be that of Sir Denis Rooke. For a man who never really wanted British Gas to be privatized, Sir Denis — perennially described as formidable — has dominated proceedings far more than greater enthusiasts, despite his disclaimer that "it's nothing to do with me, I'm just the chap who is being sold".

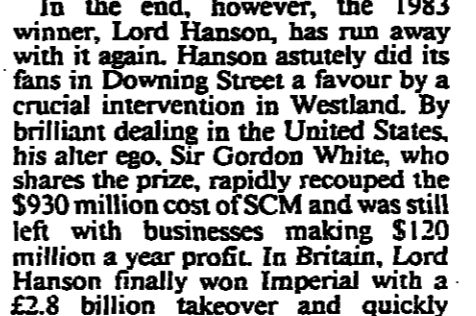
By his combination of unrelenting good humour and toughness in negotiation, Sir Denis has brought his monopoly into the private sector with the minimum of regulation, competition, or restriction and with minimum disclosure of its affairs to its initial five million shareholders. The very existence of an £8 billion pot for the Treasury is very much the result of his personal labours over the years. And if taxes are cut, taxpayers will owe it principally to Sir Denis. His comment on the charge that British Gas might be dull is also an enduring classic. "I like it to be dull if that means it makes higher profits in a bad year. That is better than being an all-singing, all-dancing lot that don't perform. We have performed and we will perform and it will be a lot easier without civil servants hanging on our coattails". A worthy winner indeed.

As a minor consolation, Sir Nicholas is awarded the Nelson Patch for asserting that the Stock Exchange Big Bang computer problems had been put right after the first day.

There is an even stronger field than usual for our second main award, Capitalist of the Year. In a strong antipodean entry, John Elliott of Elders DXL stands out as achieving more for Allied-Lyons by bidding for it than its board had done for years. Sir Jeffrey Sterling is again a strong contender for quietly unlocking the



Sir Denis Rooke: Supreme Achievement award



Lord Hanson: year's Top Capitalist

builders' announcement. After bringing chaos back to Monopolies Commission references, he stepped aside so that his department could appoint inspectors to his own family company, Guinness, and then had to investigate his own department. Leon Brittan had made a great escape. Takeover fever produced several secondary prizes. The important new award of the Year was hotly contested. Hambros earns a mention for advising itself on the family divorce. Hill Samuel and Cazenove are commended for their decision (advised by lawyers) to keep quiet over their secret weapon in the defence of AE, a move which finally cost AE any chance of remaining independent. This had the necessary quality of being to never by hand, but was no match for the all-round achievement of the winner, Morgan Grenfell. Its development of plea bargaining with the Office of Fair Trading over the Guinness bid for Distillers and United Biscuits illustrated merger with Imperial was a breakthrough. Its own flotation on the Stock Exchange, which secured unrepeatable prices for sellers, was clearly designed to show clients what not to do. Ingenuity failed over the Eurotunnel but the bank's late domestic troubles and tactical withdrawal from Guinness left the competition standing.

The Westland saga earns chairman Sir John Cuckney the title of Politician of the Year. His stoic determination left the Cabinet looking like children and the Opposition in awe. Suggestions that James Prior has asked him for lessons are, however, mere titillation.

Although many escaped bids, the Colditz Wooden Horse goes to Geoffrey Mulcahy of Woolworths, who shamed the institutions into loyalty. The Bank of England earns a mention for selling JMB and escaping with less embarrassment than once seemed likely. The subsidiary Pyrrhus Victory Shield is awarded to Michael McWilliam of Standard Chartered for his escape from the clutches of Lloyds into other friendly hands.

The White Knight Shield goes to Robert Maxwell, who made an appearance in one guise or another in too many bids to mention. His role in changing distressed damsels' understanding of the true nature of a white knight is likely to prove a lasting contribution.

Ernest Saunders is an equally strong candidate for his risk-free, high reward strategy but his situation is so fluid that a temporary personal award is called for. Pressing attempts by the column's Scottish division to award the Black Heart have been rejected. Pro tem Mr Saunders receives the Draught Guinness Diary for a year which the winner starts frothy, bubbly and on top but finds increasingly dark and heavy as he goes on.

After a long ministerial career below the parapet, the curse of Westland propelled Mr Channon straight to the dispatch box to unleash the patriotic wrath of the provinces over the plan he announced to sell Leyland Trucks and Land-Rover to General Motors, not to mention the possibility of Ford buying Austin-Rover. Poor Mr Channon soon found himself backing down humiliatedly on all fronts. Much more was to follow, including the British Ship-

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The Foot in Mouth statuette was sneaked at the winning post by Robert Fleming, who managed to put out a rejection of a higher bid for client Bryant Holdings as inadequate before it had been made.

Competition from Whitehall is fierce for the Rubber Duck prize for flexibility. Nigel Lawson's steadfast pursuit of policies which somehow do not quite seem the same as a year ago needs no commendation here. The Central Statistical Office has made an outstanding contribution by continually changing its mind over the level of invisible exports. It has now made them incalculable as well. May we look forward to the current account balancing to the pound every month in future "due to incalculables". The prize, however, goes to Eurotunnel for the ever-shifting closing date for subscriptions. The closing date, it turned out, was whatever time the Bank of England finally bullied City institutions to come up with enough money.

Mr Lawson instead earns the Lady Bountiful Plate for giving away £800 million of taxpayers' money in the TSB. The Golden Narcissus is to be held by Sir Ralph Halpern, who really has done a wonderful job at Burton — though he would be the last to say so —



Mulcahy: Colditz Saunders: Draught Guinness Diary

and has now ousted BOC's Richard Giordano as Britain's highest paid manager.

We must look abroad for an outstanding winner of the Bullet in Foot plaster cast. Sheikh Yamani wanted to teach irresponsible members of Opec a lesson, so he turned on the oil taps — a powerful demonstration of Saudi power. Unfortunately King Fahd thought differently as the Sheikh's brilliant strategy wrecked the Saudi budget and made it the least popular country in the Gulf.

In Geneva, meanwhile, the Institute for Research and Information on Multinationals earns the unusual award of the Final Logoff for knowing when to stop. Its director, M Henri Roanne-Rosenblatt, has just announced that IRM will cease its activities from the end of the year on the quixotic ground that its job is done and people now understand multinationals. Now there is a precedent many could usefully follow — and a message for this column.

The last word, and the last prize, should, however, surely go to Ivan Boesky, who earned the Cassandra Sandwich Board for the saying of the year last January. He took the opportunity of a visit to Cambrian & General Securities in London to explain his role as a Robin Hood fighting to get shareholders a better deal. "We look forward to the time when we can provide a service in the UK market as we do at home." Thank you, Mr Boesky and a prosperous accident-free 1987 to all.

Law Report December 29 1986

Miners' differential pay rates against law protecting trade unions

Ridgeway and Another v. National Coal Board
 Before Lord Justice May, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Bingham
 [Judgment December 16]

The National Coal Board is failing to pay to two members of the National Union of Mine-workers wages at the increased rates agreed with the Union of Democratic Mine-workers on January 17, 1986, non-payment of which had led to their complaints.

The board submitted that the board should not be ordered to pay the wages at the increased rates unless it was established that the appellants had been in breach of the contract of employment made by members of the NUM against the board did not furnish justification for the court proceeding with the appeal there was no longer any live issue between the parties, even if the decision would be far from academic in other cases.

However, it was not right to regard this as a case where there was no longer any matter in actual controversy. The amount of compensation payable was never agreed, nor had it been considered by the industrial tribunal.

The amount of compensation payable was not necessarily limited to the amount of lost wages. Under section 26 of the 1978 Act the amount of compensation was such amount as the tribunal considered just and equitable having regard to the infringement of the right under section 23.

The appellants were also asserting a claim for frustration and stress, from having to work alongside others being paid more for doing the same work. They relied on *Braxington v. Caudon Wholesale Ltd* [1978] ICR 405. They also claimed interest on the unpaid sums.

The claims for further compensation were alive and could not be disregarded as *de minimis*. The court was

not entitled to refuse to hear the appeal.

The first of the four questions raised was whether the failure of the Coal Board to pay the appellants wages at the increased rates constituted "action" short of dismissal. By virtue of the extended meaning given to that word by section 153(1) of the 1978 Act, it included omission.

The board submitted that to be an omission the benefit denied must be one which the employee could reasonably expect to receive.

The board's submission could not be accepted. For an act to constitute "action" within section 23 there did not need to be any reasonable expectation that the employer would not so behave.

That being so, there was no justification for adding that requirement as a gloss on the language in the statute in the case of an omission. Moreover, to draw the suggested distinction between action and omission could produce absurd results.

The second issue was whether the action was taken against each appellant "as an individual". The board submitted that action was not taken against an employee "as an individual" unless it was directed or targeted against him.

That argument was also unacceptable. It seemed reasonably clear that the phrase "as an individual" was included in section 23 of the Employment Protection Act 1975, which was the forerunner of section 23 of the 1978 Act, so as to exclude from the ambit of the right conferred on employees by that section conduct of the kind found in *Post Office v. Crouch* [1974] 1 WLR 89.

Against that background the expression "as an individual" in section 23 was intended to to

preclude adverse action being taken against a union being treated *ipso facto*, on the reasoning adopted in the *Crowther* case, as action taken against the employee.

Adverse action taken against a union was not, by reason only of any consequential effect it might have on members or officers of the union, to be treated as action against individual employees. To be within the section the action had to affect the employee otherwise than merely *qua* member or officer of a union.

The employee's pay came to him as an individual employee and not as a member of a union, even if his amount might be affected by negotiations between his union and his employer.

Indeed, it was difficult to think of an action, short of dismissal, which could be taken by an employer against an employee which could more obviously qualify as action taken against him as an individual than a reduction in, or a failure to increase, his pay.

The third question was whether the tribunal misdirected themselves when reaching the conclusion that the board's purpose, in not paying the NUM the wage increases payable to their UDM colleagues, was to penalise them for being members of the NUM.

There was no ground for thinking that the tribunal misdirected themselves with regard to the evidence before them on that issue.

The remaining question concerned the true construction of the expression "an independent trade union" in section 23(1)(a) of the 1978 Act.

The board contended that the expression meant any independent trade union, so that taking action for the purpose of

preventing an employee from being a member of a particular independent trade union was possible even if the employee was not a member of that union.

The appellants contended that the words comprehended not only any independent trade union but also a particular trade union, and that action for either purpose was impermissible.

Giving the language of the section its ordinary meaning, paragraph (a) was as apt to cover a case where the employer's purpose was to prevent the employee from being a member of any independent trade union whatsoever.

There was no justification for construing the words in such a way as to cut down their natural scope so as to limit the proscribed purpose to the case where the employer's intention was to prevent the employee from being a member of any trade union whatsoever.

The corresponding provisions of section 58 left no room for any lingering doubt. There was nothing in section 58(1) to support the narrower construction for which the board contended.

Sections 23(7) and 58(6) of the 1978 Act also provided some support for the appellants' construction. Section 23(3) and (4), now repealed, provided no clear guidance, however. Section 77(1) strongly supported the appellants' construction.

Those indications taken together did not show or suggest that the legislature intended the expression "an independent trade union" in sections 23(1)(a) of the 1978 Act to bear some meaning other than the one which seemed to be their natural meaning.

The board placed reliance on the wording of section 5(1)(a) of the Industrial Relations Act 1971, which conferred on every worker the right to be a member of "such trade union as he may choose". That form of words was contrasted with paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 to the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974, which was the forerunner of section 58 of the 1978 Act.

The omission of the words "as he may choose" from paragraph 6(4)(a) was explained by the difference in the linguistic form of the two sets of provisions, and did not betoken a change in the meaning as intended.

Amendments made by the Employment Acts of 1980 and 1982 were not legitimate aids in the construction of the relevant provisions, surviving unamended as it had in section 23(1)(a).

The Employment Appeal Tribunal, however, had given section (c) had been amended by section 10(4) of the 1982 Act, whereas subsection (a) had not. There was now a marked contrast between the subsections' wording.

That, however, was not an adequate basis for concluding that the board's construction was to be preferred, given in particular the indications to the contrary in section 77 and section 23(7) and the lack of ambiguity in the relevant expression.

It followed that the appellants' construction of section 23(1)(a) was correct. The observations of the Employment Appeal Tribunal in *Carlson v. Post Office* [1981] ICR 343 on that point were right, and the concession to the contrary made in *Rath v. Cruden*

proceeded to hear the merits of the case.

His Lordship preferred the construction of the word "omission" contended for by the board. Not every failure to act was an omission.

Only if the finding of non-payment of the wage increases necessarily implied, or one was able to make, the further finding of fact that the appellants did not in the circumstances get what they ought or might have expected, or perhaps what the objective observer might have expected them to get, could such a failure amount to an "omission".

There must at least have been some obligation to pay or some expectation of receipt to enable one to categorize the non-payment of the higher rates as an "omission" on the part of the board to make such payments.

However, although the tribunal erred in law in their approach to what constituted an "omission" on the part of the board, nevertheless had they adopted the correct approach, they could only have reached one conclusion, namely that there had been an "omission" properly considered in point of law.

His Lordship preferred the argument of the board that the words "as an individual" had been inserted into the 1978 Act for the purpose of drawing a distinction between action against a union and an action against an individual. The provisions of section 25(1)(a) and 26(5) supported that contention.

The board's action to withhold the pay increases from members of the NUM was not taken against the appellants "as individuals". His Lordship would dismiss the appeal on that point.

Solicitors: Seifert Sedley Williams, Mr C. P. Peach, Doncaster.

Portfolio - Gold -

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RACING: LEG INJURY THREATENS TO RULE OUT IRELAND'S LEADING HOPE FOR THE CHAMPION HURDLE

Aconitum set to increase Sherwood tally

By Mandarin

Oliver Sherwood's horses are running well now following a period when the stable was substantially below par...

handicap at Wetherby last Friday and he looks the answer to the Pheasant Handicap Hurdle at Newcastle...

Aconitum, a good handicapper at around one mile on the Flat when trained by James Bethell...

The top weight Half Brother, despite some apparently untimely form figures this season...

That was at a time when Sherwood's horses were generally out of sorts and it is reasonable to assume that Aconitum will improve for that first outing...

Carroll Rocket has run well in each of his three starts this season and can gain a deserved second success in division one of the Partridge Novices' Hurdle...

Secret Walk makes a swift reappearance after finishing second to the much-improved Why Bank in a competitive

handicap at Wetherby last Friday and he looks the answer to the Pheasant Handicap Hurdle at Newcastle...



Golden Friend and Dermot Browne jump the last safely on their way to victory at Kempton on Saturday

Crucial gallop for Dark Raven

From our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

Dark Raven has a make-or-break gallop at The Curragh today to determine whether he will be fit to run in the Champion Hurdle...

Dermot Weld, his trainer, said: "If it transpires that there is any heat or tenderness in the leg, it is my intention to take him out of the Champion Hurdle immediately..."

Weld's schedule today will be that after Dark Raven jumps back to his stable he will have him hosed down and then return a few hours later to examine the leg...

Conditions suit Very Promising

David Nicholson's Very Promising can capture the richest steeplechase of the year in Ireland...

At Leopardstown on Boxing Day, Junior Citizen started favourite for a novice handicap hurdle and could only finish sixth to Candy Sa...

There was, however, a good excuse for the size of this losing margin as the field was shipped on landing over the fourth-last fence and came to a virtual halt...

He won the Embassy Premier Chase from Ascot in January, beating Mr Moorswater while at Cheltenham he battled on to get home two lengths in front of Half Free in the Mackeson Gold Cup...

FONTWELL PARK Selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Hello Killiney 2.15 Barra Peg 1.15 Brent Riverside 2.45 Epyriana 1.45 Autumn Zulu 3.15 Hot Handed

Michael Seely's selection: 3.15 BEECH ROAD (nap)

Guide to our in-line racecard

103 (12) 0-0432 TIMEFORM (C) Mrs J Poyly & Hail 9-10-0 8 West (4) 88 7-2

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure and distance winner. BF-best favourite in latest form (F-Flat. P-Pulled up. U-Unsettled rider. B-Race bouncer. O-Clerks. N-Non-runner. W-Weight. R-Rider quit. Private Handicapper's rating. Approximate starting course winner. D-Distance winner. CD-Course price.

Going: good to soft

- 12.45 FONTWELL SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (2020: 3m 2f 110yds) (9 runners)
1 02904 HELLO KILLINEY (C) P Madigan J Jenkins 9-11-12 98 9-4
2 2-F0322 SOUTHDOWN SPIRIT (R Dove) Miss L Bower 10-11-7 86 87-4
3 3299-06 NOBELIST SAINT (F King) W King 8-10-11 4-1

FORM HELLO KILLINEY (10-7) 4th best over 500 to Queensway Boy (10-10) at Utzcaster (3m 2f 110yds) on Nov 15. 5th best over 500 to Golden Knight (11-10) at Foleskote (2m 4f 219yds) on Dec 16. 10th best over 500 to Golden Knight (11-10) at Foleskote (2m 4f 219yds) on Dec 16. 10th best over 500 to Golden Knight (11-10) at Foleskote (2m 4f 219yds) on Dec 16.

1.15 BRIGHTON NOVICE HURDLE (3-Y-O: 2m 2f) (15 runners)

- 1 12221-1 BRENT RIVERSIDE (B Mason) G Bayly 11-7 89 87-2
14 0204 CRAMMING (M Mrs C Parkin) W Kemp 10-9 5 16-1
18 026 GRESK (Mrs C Parkin) W Kemp 10-9 5 16-1

FORM BRENT RIVERSIDE (10-7) 4th best over 500 to Queensway Boy (10-10) at Utzcaster (3m 2f 110yds) on Nov 15. 5th best over 500 to Golden Knight (11-10) at Foleskote (2m 4f 219yds) on Dec 16. 10th best over 500 to Golden Knight (11-10) at Foleskote (2m 4f 219yds) on Dec 16.

1.45 WHITELAW CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (23,000: 2m 4f) (5 runners)

- 4 40-043 ALGIRA BOURA (D Mrs L Simpson) J Gifford 10-17 7 89 89-4
200-211 FRENCH CAPTAIN (D) Mrs C Parkin W Kemp 10-9 5 16-1
211-F12 AUTUMN ZULU (C) P Madigan J Jenkins 9-11-12 98 9-4

FORM FRENCH CAPTAIN (10-9) won 3/4 from Claude Monet (11-7) at Cheltenham 2m 2f 2220yds. 2nd best over 500 to Golden Knight (11-10) at Foleskote (2m 4f 219yds) on Dec 16. 10th best over 500 to Golden Knight (11-10) at Foleskote (2m 4f 219yds) on Dec 16.

2.15 E B F CONKWEIL GRANGE STUD NOVICE HURDLE (21,392: 2m 2f) (17 runners)

- 1 14 BARRA PEG (B) R Stead R Stoney 5-11-5 98 8-1
2 0-1174 CASH (Dmr of Sutherland) Denny Smith 5-11-4 6 80-4
3 0-1174 CASH (Dmr of Sutherland) Denny Smith 5-11-4 6 80-4

FORM BARRA PEG (11-5) 4th best over 500 to Brown Elbow (10-8) at Towcaster (2m 5f 2260yds) good to soft, Dec 13. 19th best over 500 to Golden Knight (11-10) at Foleskote (2m 4f 219yds) on Dec 16.

2.45 MERRIST NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (21,612: 2m 2f 110yds) (15 runners)

- 3 3PP-014 EPYRIANA (C) R Barnes Mrs J Reveley 6-11-7 82 5-1
7 200000 FADA (B Broad) J Boley 9-10-3 9 12-2
8 40371 FRIBBLE (Dmr of A) Dmr of A Gifford 10-17 7 89 89-4

FORM EPYRIANA (11-3) 4th best over 500 to Inlander (11-3) at Plumpton (2m 4f 2164yds) on Nov 26. 14th best over 500 to Golden Knight (11-10) at Foleskote (2m 4f 219yds) on Dec 16.

3.15 E B F CHERCHER HANDICAP HURDLE (22,557: 2m 2f) (10 runners)

- 4 3PP-410 HOT HANDS (C) C Neill C Neill 5-11-5 98 8-1
6 0-1174 CASH (Dmr of Sutherland) Denny Smith 5-11-4 6 80-4
7 0122-07 WHIRRY BURN (B) Mrs G McFarlane J Duggan 6-11-2 8 82-7

FORM HOT HANDS (11-3) 4th best over 500 to Inlander (11-3) at Plumpton (2m 4f 2164yds) on Nov 26. 14th best over 500 to Golden Knight (11-10) at Foleskote (2m 4f 219yds) on Dec 16.

FORM BARRA PEG (11-5) 4th best over 500 to Brown Elbow (10-8) at Towcaster (2m 5f 2260yds) good to soft, Dec 13. 19th best over 500 to Golden Knight (11-10) at Foleskote (2m 4f 219yds) on Dec 16.

FORM BRENT RIVERSIDE (10-7) 4th best over 500 to Queensway Boy (10-10) at Utzcaster (3m 2f 110yds) on Nov 15. 5th best over 500 to Golden Knight (11-10) at Foleskote (2m 4f 219yds) on Dec 16.

FORM FRENCH CAPTAIN (10-9) won 3/4 from Claude Monet (11-7) at Cheltenham 2m 2f 2220yds. 2nd best over 500 to Golden Knight (11-10) at Foleskote (2m 4f 219yds) on Dec 16.

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Stearnsby heads for Sandown en route to title challenge

By Michael Seely

Stearnsby, Jenny Pitman's impressive Welsh National winner, will now attempt to emulate Buttercup Hill Lad, who completed the double of the Cheltenham marston and Sandown's Anthony Midday Peter Cazlet Memorial Trophy en route to his win in the Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1984...

Buttercup Hill Lad, absent from the track with leg trouble since his victory in the Gainsborough Chase at Sandown 11 months ago, is now back in strong work...

The Gold Cup picture is murky, to say the least as the 10-year-old gelding John Spearing added further confusion to the situation when the Alcester trainer announced that his bold front runner, Run And Skip, who finished such a creditable fourth to Dawn Run last March, was temporarily out of action...

Run And Skip is lame after getting a bit of grit in the middle of his rear fore on the Friday before Christmas. That's why he missed the King George. But it's nothing serious for him this week, Mrs Pitman said. "I'd ideally like to get a couple of races into him before Christmas."

There is no doubt that Nohadun was going the better of the two at the time of the mishap. "I'd moved up going very easily," said Peter Scudamore, the winning jockey. "We both asked for long ones at the last and it was because Colin was under pressure that he got put down."

David Elsworth, on the other hand, was quick to defend Floyd. "Of course, I'm not saying he would have won," he said. "But Floyd is a really tough customer. He never gives up and was still training well on the younger horses in condition races. And if he's reasonably treated, I'd be tempted to have a go at the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury on February 14."

The last time Gave Brief ran in a handicap was when he won the Cheltenham Handicap at Nottingham in February, 1983. Mrs Pitman went on to gain some compensation for the eclipse of Gave Brief when Dermot Browne rode a patient race on Golden Friend to defy top weight in the Odeon Cinemas Handicap Chase at Wetherby on Boxing Day and will be on board Very Promising at Leopardstown this afternoon. However, Simon Sherwood is out of action for a week after that horrible-looking fall from Drive On Jimmy at Kempton on Saturday.

The Irish runners are headed by Robsline who, like Oregon Trail, won the Ascot in January at Cheltenham in his novice chase days. He returned to winning form in the Durkan Brothers International Punchestown Chase, finishing eight lengths ahead of Another Browne. His jumping was not fluent but he has done better going left-handed.

The Times will be publishing its special quality newspaper to do so - offering comprehensive service for all the cards including exclusive ratings for the top meetings at Cheltenham and Catterick Bridge, plus news and results from the two New Year's Eve meetings. Make sure you have a complete guide to the quality of the racing by placing a regular order with The Times with your newspaper.

New Year's Day service

There is a full programme of racing later this week with six meetings scheduled for New Year's Day.

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By Michael Neill

The cold facts on racing's uncool

Simon Barnes
Seeing that the last time I had been to the races was the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in Paris, it was time to go again. So on Saturday I went to York...

Year's Day service

Fraser: cup aloft, his choice was proved correct

There's no way "Fraser" gets the credit he deserves. Paul McNamee said, "His input and dedication are tremendous and his record speaks for itself."

The cold facts on racing's uncool

Simon Barnes

Seeing that the last time I had been to the races was the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in Paris, it was time to go again.

The nearest you could get to such a standard of importance was to wear Hunter Wellingtons and to eat your chips with your little finger extended.

It goes a long way to explain why jumping will always be the poor relation of flat racing...

But there is absolutely no point at all in going to the Hunt racing unless you like actual National Hunt racing.

The horses are not the flickering shimmerers of the flat racing season.

But National Hunt horses go on forever. Surely that's not the horse I backed here five years ago?

There's no way "Fraser" gets the credit he deserves. Paul McNamee said, "His input and dedication are tremendous and his record speaks for itself."

Australians wrest Davis Cup from Swedes

From David Miller, Chief Sports Correspondent, Melbourne

As Neale Fraser, Australia's captain, said in friendly jest at the post-Davis Cup banquet: "Where on earth did he come from? Mikeal Pernfors, yet another remarkable, gifted player to emerge from the rich forests of Swedish tennis..."

Bob Hawke, Australia's Prime Minister, may not be the foremost expert of international tennis, yet it was no inappropriate comparison when he suggested that Pernfors reminded us of Rosewall: the innocuous serve, the short-back-and-sides and modest physique...

The quality of any outstanding sporting winner is dependent, almost always, on the quality of the loser.

Yet Pat Cash came back to beat him, memorably 2-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 and thereby gave Australia a winning 3-1 lead.

There was no Australian in the history of the Cup has won a singles from two sets down.



Fraser: cup aloft, his choice was proved correct

stunned. Six times he surrendered to the Swede. The emotion became almost unendurable in the critical seventh and eighth games of the fourth set.

"I didn't think about it," he said, "I just concentrated on my first serve. If you think about situations like that, you'd go nuts."

Perhaps Fraser's greatest talent lies in picking the right man to do the crucial jobs.

"There's no way 'Fraser' gets the credit he deserves. Paul McNamee said, 'His input and dedication are tremendous and his record speaks for itself.'"

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Back in 1973 when Australia beat the United States in Cleveland, Fraser was able to call on Newcombe, Laver and Rosewall...

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Jumping for joy: Pat Cash leaps while Neale Fraser, non-playing captain, salutes Australia's Davis Cup win over Sweden yesterday

Fraser's talent is knowing how to pick a winner

From Richard Evans, Melbourne

It is many years now since Neale Fraser, Australia's tennis legend, has been mentioned in the same breath as the legends of the game.

Widnes disappear under avalanche

By Keith Macklin

Widnes... Warrington... For a brief first half spell Widnes threatened to make a contest of this. A John Player Special Trophy semi-final at Central Park...

Widnes were hit by an avalanche as Warrington produced an astonishing display of swift passing, perfect backing-up and strong, straight running.

Warrington scored eight tries in a staggeringly one-sided victory and in many respects their performance was a repeat of last season's premiership final against Halifax...

Warrington now meet the holders Wigan at Burnley Park... Warrington turned on the heat in the second half yet another Australian, the full back Johnson, scorched through for two brilliant individual tries...

Halifax move into third spot

Only two championship matches were played yesterday, but both had important bearings on the Premiership and relegation issues...

Rebels wilt in pace onslaught

Johannesburg (Reuters) - An undefeated 54 by Hughes, the captain, and 49 from Wessels failed to save the Australian rebels from losing their first five-day international match against South Africa by 49 runs with a day to spare.

Indians toil on a day of protests

Nagpur (Reuters) - A stone-throwing crowd and protests by the Sri Lankan players over a rain-drenched outfield marred the second day's play in the second Test against India yesterday.

Carr will not be lost to the game

Donald Carr, who on reaching the age of 60 yesterday retired as secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board, has been the most devoted of cricketers.

New-found spirit laced by the boot of Wallace

Three penalties in the second half by Geoff Wallace earned CYMS a narrow victory over NIFC at Belmont.

Upsets aplenty at Sherborne

Shock results were the order of the day at the Torhill B Tournament in Sherborne yesterday.

SNOW REPORTS

SCOTLAND: Outpouring upper runs, runs complete, wet snow with patches; middle runs, runs complete, but narrow wet snow.

HOCKEY

Upsets aplenty at Sherborne. Shock results were the order of the day at the Torhill B Tournament in Sherborne yesterday.

A surprise victory for Stock

West Berlin (Reuters) - Leonhard Stock, Austria, the 1980 Olympic downhill champion who had never won a major race before or since, recorded a shock victory in a men's World Cup parallel slalom race here yesterday.

FOUR CONTENDERS

Tokyo (AFP) - Four Japanese cities have now asked the Japan Olympic Committee to endorse their bids to stage the 1998 Winter Olympics.

SKIIING

A surprise victory for Stock. West Berlin (Reuters) - Leonhard Stock, Austria, the 1980 Olympic downhill champion who had never won a major race before or since, recorded a shock victory in a men's World Cup parallel slalom race here yesterday.

CRICKET: THE DIPLOMAT WHO SURVIVED ALL THE CHANGES CALLS IT A DAY

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FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS: CHOWELL: Invitation 10 miles cross-country 1. A. Cotton (Ireland), 31 min 35 sec.

BASKETBALL

UNITED STATES: National Basketball Association. Boston Celtics 107, Detroit Pistons 93.

ICE HOCKEY

NORTH AMERICA: National League (NHL). Philadelphia Flyers 4, Toronto Maple Leafs 1.

LACROSSE

BRITISH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Division. Barnet 2, Havering 1.

TENNIS

MAIAN BEACH: Florida Orange Bowl International Tennis Tournament. Venus Williams 6-4, 6-1.

NETBALL

WIDNES: Widnes 21, Warrington 12.

HOCKEY

PEZZA EXPRESS: London League Premier Division. London 3, Weybridge 2.

BUBKA'S AWARD

Moscow (AFP) - Sergei Bubka, the pole vault world record holder, has been voted Soviet sportsman of the year for the third time in a row.

FOOTBALL: THE LATEST ENGLISH KNIGHT ERRANT TO TRY TO CONQUER A NOBLE SCOTTISH CELEBRATES VICTORY TO THE MANNER BORN

Roberts a true blue blood of Rangers

Bowyer's century is timely relief for frantic Forest

By Dennis Shaw

Nottingham Forest..... 2
Luton Town..... 2

Two teams with high-flying ambitions met each other on the rebound from Boxing Day defeats to produce a result that was the roughest of rough justice, with Forest salvaging the equaliser in injury time.

Having kicked-off in search of victory for the last time on the top of the table, Forest were forced to settle for frantic survival.

It came in the shape of Bowyer, their captain, with his 100th league goal. "I saw the 90 minutes shining on the electric scoreboard and I thought we would get nothing," he said. "I saw the Luton's draw as luck would be uncharitable since they did muster two perfectly good goals. Yet, that apart, the scoreline mis-represented the game.

The contrast between the two performances was startling. Forest attacked feverishly from the first kick to the last, yet trailed twice. Conversely, Luton were forced to defend, often with ten men in their own area, yet conjured two goals like rabbits from a magician's top-hat.

The tone was set by Forest when Webb had a "goal" disallowed early on; Luton then went ahead through a pin-ball affair. Grimes' corner found its way into the net by means of ricochet headers by Harford and then Brian Stein on the line.

Harford was back for his first game of the season and that lethal head of his had made his mark within 13 minutes. However he had little chance to offer more since Forest had the ball most of the time.

Ironically, Forest's barrage of Forest attacking took an hour to provide an equaliser. All else had failed when Walker went on a long run out of defence to feed the mercurial Carr.

It was appropriate he should be involved since he had beavered energetically throughout. Carr's shot hit Campbell and rebounded for Nigel Clough to stab in.

As last it seemed Forest could secure the win to keep pace with Everton, in action elsewhere. In truth, though, it was lucky Luton at it again when a long upfield punt by Sealey released Newell, who galloped forward and beat Segers.

Bowyer's equaliser was a hopeful 20-yard rally through a crowded goalmouth. What Forest had needed most of all was a measure of composure to control all that dash.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: H Segers, G Johnson, P Richards, M Meehan, M Donaghy, R Wilson (capt), M Shaw, M Newell, M Harford, A Grimes, Referee: H Adcock (Salford).

LUTON TOWN: L Saeley, T Brackner, R Johnson, P Richards, M Meehan, M Donaghy, R Wilson (capt), M Shaw, M Newell, M Harford, A Grimes, Referee: H Adcock (Salford).

Luton's defeat was a blow to their hopes of survival. They were among many former Arsenal players introduced to the crowd at half-time as part of the club's centenary celebrations. It was tempting to suggest that both of them should have been sent on against Southampton because the one thing that Arsenal could not do in the first half was score.

Arsenal's bad luck continued until the 73rd minute. By that time they were running out of ideas and the home supporters were growing impatient. It needed a touch of inspiration to unlock Southampton's resolute defence and it was Williams, facing his old club, who provided it.

Receiving the ball in space about 30 yards out, he advanced a few paces before unleashing a hummingbird of a shot which beat Nixon and rebounded from the post to Quinn, who seized on the chance to score his sixth goal in nine games.

This was just reward for the tall, lanky forward who is becoming a real handful for some of the country's most experienced defenders. If he maintains this rate of progress he could yet save Arsenal's manager, George Graham, an excursion into the transfer market.

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Roberts, with a foot carelessly high, left Sturrock writhing on the ground. "Great player," the same critic exclaimed.

Given room by a defensive performance from Dundee United, Roberts was able to demonstrate to the home supporters the more creative qualities which Tottenham Hotspur eventually extracted from this former dock worker.

His accurately hit ball to the head of McCoist just before half-time deserved a more successful finish but two minutes into the second half the Scots were given a taste of vintage Roberts, as rough and potent as unrefined whisky.

Surgingly out of defence, he harassed McInally into error and chased a back-pass all the way to Thomson, the goalkeeper, who inevitably lost out in the brawny head-on confrontation. The ball rebounded to McCoist, who this time accepted his new team colleague's offering. Roberts celebrated as though Rangers had been in his blood since birth.

Not a moan from the 42,000 crowd

Butcher also took the opportunity to make amends with the second goal. In the 25th minute he had strayed offside when Souless, the player-manager, making a rare appearance between transfer coups, drove a shot beneath the body of Thomson which did nothing to help stop the jibes about Scottish goalkeepers.

If Butcher's popularity was ever in doubt we would have known about it then. But there was not a single moan from the 42,000 crowd. Now, after Roberts had been fouled, he stroked a free kick to the far post for McCoist to flick on a back-header and Fleck to drive home. When the final whistle blew Roberts again wisely applauded the dotting thousands.

He continued to do and say all the right things at the after-match press conference, sensibly uprating by the end of it.

"I've come to a club which can be the greatest in the world," Butcher said. "Football is more of a spectator sport here. It's a mercurious environment to play in, fiercely competitive. You don't get much time on the ball and, of course, everybody wants to beat you. You've got to be on your toes."

As someone remarked, it is a great time to be a Celtic player: you can beat Rangers and England on the same day. After three failures this season Celtic get the chance to put the theory to the test again at Ibrox on New Year's Day.

RANGERS: C Woods, G Roberts, S Munro, G Souless, D McPherson, J Butcher, A Ferguson, R Fleck, A McCoist, I Durrant, D Cooper.

DUDDIE UNITED: W Thomson, M Melgale, G McGinnis, J McInally, D MacDonald, D Gray, J Ferguson (capt), Rennie, G Clark, M Bell, P MacKintosh, J Page (capt), D Bowman.

Referee: G B Smith.

But when, like Northwich, you have never won at Old Trafford and your last League goal on the famous ground was nine years ago, back in 1976, you probably believe you are entitled to resort to whatever means, however dubious, to achieve your result.

Norwich might not have been presented with their chance had Robson not hurt himself trying to dispossess Crook. Robson seemed to be in the middle of providing further confirmation that he is outside the role of central defender when his jinx returned.

With Moran, Hogg and McGrath missing, Ferguson faces a problem finding a pairing for the fixtures against Newcastle and Southampton. Either Stapleton, who dropped back to partner Gordon, or Duxbury, who has played there before, seems the obvious solution to line up alongside Garton.

Having to reorganize was one thing for United. Finding themselves stretched at the back in their characteristic search for a winner, when other teams in their plight might have settled for playing out time, was quite another. It was in the 81st minute that Gordon utilized the advantage with a swift ball out to Culverhouse, whose low centre was met by Drinkell's plunging header.

Drinkell was seen to blot his copybook with a tackle on Strachan that earned him a booking. It was from Strachan that United created most of their chances, none of which were as good as that from which Davenport got Gibson through to be beaten by Gunn's spread-eagled body in the closing minutes.

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NORWICH CITY: B Gunn, J Drinkell, W Sheehy, M Crook, K Orielak, W Higgins, R Rosario, D Gordon, Referee: T Sampson.



McGinnis and genius: Roberts (right), the new toast of Ibrox (Photograph: Tom Kidd)

Drake might have broken the duck

By Vince Wright

Arsenal..... 1
Southampton..... 0

Ted Drake and Reg Lewis, great goal-scoring duo of Arsenal, were among many former Arsenal players introduced to the crowd at half-time as part of the club's centenary celebrations. It was tempting to suggest that both of them should have been sent on against Southampton because the one thing that Arsenal could not do in the first half was score.

Arsenal's bad luck continued until the 73rd minute. By that time they were running out of ideas and the home supporters were growing impatient. It needed a touch of inspiration to unlock Southampton's resolute defence and it was Williams, facing his old club, who provided it.

Receiving the ball in space about 30 yards out, he advanced a few paces before unleashing a hummingbird of a shot which beat Nixon and rebounded from the post to Quinn, who seized on the chance to score his sixth goal in nine games.

This was just reward for the tall, lanky forward who is becoming a real handful for some of the country's most experienced defenders. If he maintains this rate of progress he could yet save Arsenal's manager, George Graham, an excursion into the transfer market.

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A glimmer of hope boosts Chelsea

By Simon Jones

Chelsea..... 4
Aston Villa..... 1

Chelsea can look forward to 1967 with some encouragement, having saved up their best performance of the old year until their last Saturday. A game which on paper had promised about as much fun as a visit to the dentist, turned out to be surprisingly entertaining.

Though it was by no means a classic, Chelsea had that little piece of luck which so often deserts teams which are struggling. In the seventh minute, a deft pass from the right to some side having made a typically edgy opening, the referee awarded a penalty when Keown did no more than run into Nevin's heels. Spinkman, at least, showed no nerves as he took an almost perfect spot kick, hitting the ball hard into the roof of the net.

After that start, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, Spink, had been accused for seeming rather dazed and, midway through the first half, he found himself further disorientated after a fierce challenge from Speedie. For some minutes he wandered around clutching his head like someone who had been to one party too many.

The minute before the interval Dixon prodded in his first goal for 12 League games, the ball having ricocheted around the six-yard box as if it were in a pinball machine. From that moment Chelsea began to re-discover their zest.

They shrugged off the earlier loss of McLaughlin and opted for containing Villa while looking for opportunities to counter-attack at speed.

There could have been no better illustration of the power of confidence than the fourth Chelsea goal - Pates having headed in their third when Spink somehow got lost on the way out to Wegerle's corner. Speedie had the entire Villa defence moving to the right as he turned to the left and when his cross came over Dixon, no longer weighed down by uncertainty, jumped to score with something like his old authority.

So Chelsea move off the bottom of the table a drop closer to it. But the Midlands should not panic. Though their defence is becoming worryingly fallible again, their football is tidy and thoughtful, as they demonstrated in a late goal by Elliott.

Chelsea: Pates, Elliott, Nevin, Dixon, Keown, Spinkman, Wegerle, W. Brown, A. Brown, Speedie, R. Wegerle.

ASTON VILLA: N Spink, G Williams, A. Brown, P. Hurst, P. Robson, P. Burch, A. Daley, G. Thompson, A. Gray, S. Hunt, M. Walters, Referee: M. Azzali.

Brown's view a waste of time

By Nicholas Harling

Manchester United..... 0
Norwich City..... 1

If the saddest sight of Saturday's match was seeing Bryan Robson again escorted off the field with a hamstring injury, the second most disappointing aspect was that Norwich City should have missed out on Rush from the half-way line and put him into space. Hedge rushed out where his defenders feared to tread and the open invitation to steer wide of the goalkeeper and into a beckoning net was accepted without fuss.

Kenyon, Dalgleish, the Liverpool manager, had admitted after defeat by United the previous day that it was a mistake to play Molby in defence and thus restored him to the midfield. Wilson offered no admission of error after making four changes from the team narrowly beaten by Manchester City on Boxing Day. It will be interesting to see if he has second thoughts for the game against Norwich City on New Year's Day.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: M Hodge, C Morris, N Worthington, J Knight, J Macdonald, S Roberts, A Gregory, J Chapman, D Hart (capt), G Strutt, M Chamberlain.

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But when, like Northwich, you have never won at Old Trafford and your last League goal on the famous ground was nine years ago, back in 1976, you probably believe you are entitled to resort to whatever means, however dubious, to achieve your result.

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Wednesday caught on the rebound

By David Powell

Sheffield Wednesday..... 0
Liverpool..... 1

If there is one thing harder than a match against Liverpool, it is a match against Liverpool when they have just been beaten. Since the champions last suffered two successive league defeats this season they have been especially merciless to those trying to kick them while they are down.

At Hillsborough on Saturday, Sheffield Wednesday were the latest to feel the reverberations. Needing a win themselves to regain a foothold on the championship ladder, they started resolutely but fell to the type of goal that Rush scores and others miss.

It may be no consolation to Wednesday, but at least they kept the score down to one. Liverpool's previous league defeats this season (and they came to Sheffield after the most stinging a home reverse against Manchester United) have been followed by three, four, five and six-goal performances.

It was a four-goal game, played on a chilly rain-swept afternoon, illuminated only by Rush's goal and the sparks of steel from Walsh and McMahon. Had it not been for his bright yellow tie and

matching breast-pocket handkerchief, Howard Wilkinson, the Wednesday manager, would also have fitted neatly into the overcast impression.

Summing up Liverpool, with only a couple of near misses by McMahon, had looked no more likely to score than Wednesday - for whom Hirst failed with two presentable chances. Then, on the 25th minute, Hirst picked out Rush from the half-way line and put him into space. Hedge rushed out where his defenders feared to tread and the open invitation to steer wide of the goalkeeper and into a beckoning net was accepted without fuss.

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Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton	1	8	3	5	21	16	18
Derby County	3	3	4	9	18	29	9
Huddersfield Tn	1	7	5	8	18	18	12
Blackburn Rovers	1	4	7	8	13	26	9
Liverpool	0	8	3	1	13	5	24
Sheff Wed	0	4	4	11	13	24	4
Sheff Wednesday	0	1	1	13	24	19	0
West Ham Utd	2	3	4	11	17	26	8
Wimbledon	3	4	4	11	17	26	10

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby County	3	3	4	9	18	29	9
Portsmouth	1	12	3	3	25	15	24
Cardiff City	0	11	3	6	21	16	18
Oxford Utd	1	7	4	9	18	29	9
Reading	2	5	4	11	17	26	10
Sheff Wednesday	0	4	4	11	13	24	4
Sheff Wednesday	0	1	1	13	24	19	0
West Ham Utd	2	3	4	11	17	26	8
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Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham City	1	7	7	9	29	27	12
Blackpool	1	6	4	10	21	23	10
Bristol City	1	5	5	10	21	23	10
Bristol Rovers	2	3	5	10	21	23	10
Derby County	3	3	4	9	18	29	9
Huddersfield Tn	1	7	5	8	18	18	12
Blackburn Rovers	1	4	7	8	13	26	9
Liverpool	0	8	3	1	13	5	24
Sheff Wed	0	4	4	11	13	24	4
Sheff Wednesday	0	1	1	13	24	19	0
West Ham Utd	2	3	4	11	17	26	8
Wimbledon	3	4	4	11	17	26	10

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	1	10	5	5	17	17	15
Notts County	2	10	4	4	21	11	18
Blackburn Rovers	1	6	3	11	21	23	10
Blackpool	1	6	3	11	21	23	10
Bristol City	1	5	5	10	21	23	10
Bristol Rovers	2	3	5	10	21	23	10
Derby County	3	3	4	9	18	29	9
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SPORT

England aglow with Ashes triumph

Gatting pays tribute to Small

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Melbourne

England retained the Ashes here yesterday when they won the fourth Test match by an innings and 14 runs with more than two whole days to spare. Having bowled Australia out in three hours 55 minutes on the first day, they took only 45 minutes longer now, Australia's last six wickets falling for 41 runs in 18.4 overs.

The less said about Australia's batting the better. The omission of Ritchie had left them in the first place with only four front-line batsmen, much to Border's regret and England's delight. England had Botham at No 6 and Australia had Matthews, between whom there is no comparison.

Mike Gatting spoke after the match of a great effort by all his players, and so it was. Not least, England fielded splendidly. For an England captain, it is a fine moment when he is assured of taking the Ashes home from Australia. In all this century, only Warner, Douglas, Chapman, Jardine, Hutton, Illingworth and Brearley have savoured it. Gatting was not chaired off the field or anything like that, but that was because at the end England had met with such little resistance.

Gatting said that he had not enjoyed every moment of his captaincy (who does?), but he was enjoying yesterday all right. It made a joyful ending to what has been for the most part a depressing year for England. For Australia, it was their fourteenth successive Test match without a victory, three more than they have ever gone before. Border said he felt less upset about yesterday's defeat than the one in Brisbane when Australia's hopes had been so high. "I've stolen myself to it," was his rather fatalistic appraisal.

Border is "opposed to wholesale sacking" of his players, believing that the talent is there if they can get the balance of their side right and find the necessary confidence. He talked of the "cur" that Australia have got into and rated England as being as good as any of their sides he has played against.

While Gatting made a special reference to Reid's excellent bowling, Border did so to Small's. In his first Test of the series, Small was made Man of the Match ahead of Botham and Border. For a while yesterday afternoon when, almost without exception, Cash was two sets down to Perrens, it looked horribly as though Australia would lose the Davis Cup final and the Ashes on the same day. Had the America's Cup then gone as well, as it will may in February, the whole country would have been cast into the deepest gloom.

But Cash did his stuff in the end, the last two or three games there coinciding with the tea interval at the cricket and being watched on the video screen by the crowd of 23,463.

The total attendance at the Test match of 107,817 was as much of a disappointment to

the Australian Cricket Board as the result was to its selectors. The match was won and lost on the first day, when Australia were bowled out for 141. Had they made even 250 then, they would have put England under more pressure and a typically close-fought Melbourne Test match might have resulted. Yesterday they passed 100 with only two wickets down and Marsh and Border playing well, but it had always seemed only a matter of time before the rot set in.

Varying bounce and lateral movement mean that the Melbourne pitch at this time of year is seldom one on which a batsman knows quite what to expect next. The surprise now was that the England seamers took only the first

dashing strokes. Jones was slashing at something not quite wide and strong enough to warrant it. Jones is establishing himself, none the less, as a cricketer to be reckoned with. By lunch Marsh and Border had taken Australia to 87 for 2. They were going along quite encouragingly afterwards when the best of the slip catches taken in the match accounted for Border, Embury holding two-handed to his right, a ball that was travelling like lightning. At 113 for 3, with Border gone, England had broken the back of their task, even with Marsh still playing the same sort of game that Broad had for England.

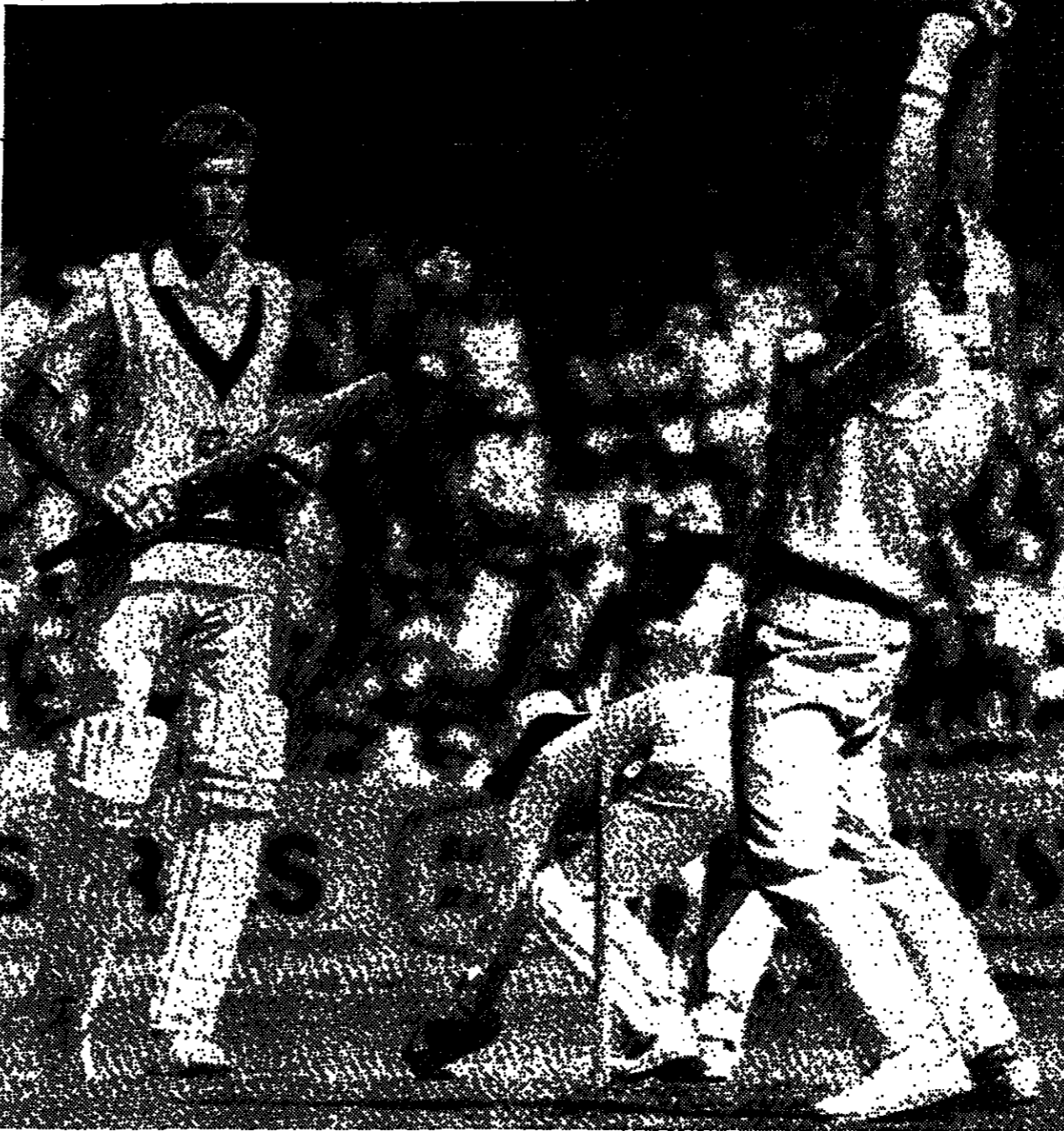
There was still work to be done, even so, and when Marsh and Waugh had made 40 together for the fourth wicket, without many alarms, there happened an incident that England could well have allowed to upset them. They were, in fact, doing so, when in the same over they were able to forget it. First Marsh was given in by umpire French when he was fairly obviously caught at short leg off Embury, off bat or glove and with no pad involved.

In situations like this, Gatting is not good at telling his side to get on with the game. But two balls later Marsh played Embury into the covers, started for a run, stopped and started again. By the time Marsh finally turned back, Edmonds's accurate return had left him hopelessly stranded. Justice, I fancy, was done. Marsh, like Jones, is coming on quite well. In Embury's next over Matthews was bowled off his pad, playing no stroke. At tea Australia were 159 for five, Waugh, who was playing well, being 37. A more remarkable run-out followed soon afterwards when Sleep was sent back by the striker, Waugh. Swooping in from mid-wicket, Gower aimed an underarm return to Edmonds, the bowler. The ball, after sticking in Gower's palm, lobbed slowly, high and wide, to Edmonds's right. Edmonds finished by shying at the stumps from perhaps three yards and hitting them. Sleep was still just out.

All that remained to be decided after that was whether Australia could save the innings defeat. Needing 208 to do so, they lost Zoehrer at 180 to a tumbling catch at short leg off Edmonds. At 189 McDermott was bowled by Embury's arm ball, and when, at 194, Hughes swept Edmonds to deep square leg it was all over.

Not since 1901-02 had a Test match between England and Australia in Australia been finished in three days. It happened then in Sydney, England winning by an innings and 124 after Barnes, Braund and Blythe, all playing their first game for England, had bowled out an Australian side containing Trumper, Noble and Clem Hill for 168 and 172.

England had had enough trouble making 349 on Saturday for Australia's batsmen



Moment of victory: Reid, Australia's not out batsman, turns to face an ecstatic Botham as the Ashes are retained

not to have liked what they saw. It was a good total for Melbourne, built on another hundred by Broad and exceeded by England in only three of the 16 Test matches they have now played here since the war. Gatting had the utmost difficulty getting to 40; Lamb's 43 was hard work; and Botham, who batted for 85 minutes, was never able to cut loose. Broad, however, soldiered on, joining in the process Hobbs and Hammond as the only other Englishman to have made centuries in three successive Tests in the same rubber. Woolmer also got three in three Tests against Australia, but in two different series.

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA TEST AVERAGES

Table with columns: England Batting and Fielding, Australia Batting and Fielding, England Bowling, Australia Bowling. Rows list players like B.C. Broad, D.I. Gower, I.T. Botham, etc.

Reid and Hughes bowled some excellent overs, often without luck, and none of England's right-handed batsmen played Sleep's wrist spin with anything like the same certainty as the left-handed Broad. McDermott, who improved his bowling figures by taking the last three England wickets, may wonder in years to come, when he watches a film of the day's play, how he was not in the hands of a psychiatrist. Not even Lillee at his worst used to behave with a more reckless passion when bowling for Australia.

How sides compare in the '80s

The table below, showing the record of each of the Test-playing countries since 1980 and ranking them according to the percentage of victories, accurately reflects the state of current world cricket (Richard Lockwood writes). The West Indians, under Clive Lloyd and Viv Richards, have dominated the decade, losing only four of their 59 tests and winning 12 of the 14 series they have contested.

New Zealand, in second place, are the only side to have beaten the West Indies in a series since 1980, gaining a 1-0 home victory in the early months of that year. Before 1980 they had won just 10 out of 140 Tests.

Border's record as captain now reads: won three, tied one, lost nine and drawn 12. He said: "You get used to losing and playing badly. It will take a good win to break the ice. We are doing so many things badly and I can't put my finger on the reason why. I don't feel as disappointed as I did after the first Test. I stole myself for it."

Border revealed, however, that he was unhappy with the side picked by Australia's selectors for the fourth Test. They chose to omit Greg Ritchie, a specialist batsman, and most judges believed that Greg Matthews, the all-rounder, should have been the man to stand out.

Gatting said of Border: "It must be very hard on him. He's been one of the best Australian players for a long time. Now he's lost a series he thought he should win and I can imagine how he feels."

Test records since 1980

Table showing Test records since 1980 for West Indies, New Zealand, Pakistan, England, Australia, India, Sri Lanka. Columns: W, L, D, T, %.

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Robson set for long injury spell

Bryan Robson faces a two-month absence after a hamstring tear which is casting increasing doubts over his career (Steve Bates writes). The Manchester United and England captain broke down 49 minutes into Saturday's game with Norwich after stretching for a tackle which damaged the hamstring for the sixth time in 14 months.

Immediate reports that the £2m midfielder would be back within four weeks were dispelled yesterday when the dejected player said: "At first the manager thought the injury was at the bottom of the muscle but it's more towards the top area which has given me so much trouble before."

While Robson was reluctant to place a time-limit on his recovery, the seriousness of the set-back indicates a much longer rehabilitation period and is a blow for Alex Ferguson, the manager, who is eager to improve United's league position. Since his arrival, Ferguson has tried to eradicate the hamstring injuries which plagued the club under his predecessor, Ron Atkinson. Robson's suggests that the player has a worsening problem. "It's a nightmare for us but I won't be panicked into buying a replacement for Robson," Ferguson said yesterday. "My big problem at the moment is to get Kevin Moran fit for the game against Newcastle because my two other central-halfers are still struggling."

Charlton enjoy a goal spree

Three goals of genuine class and two of sheer opportunism pushed Charlton off the bottom of the table, overwhelming a lacklustre Manchester City side 5-0 at Selhurst Park yesterday. In the south London side's best win since returning to division one this season.

This encounter did not bode well as a footballing classic. Charlton had gone nine games without a league win, and City have not won away since January 18. The opening minutes typified the plight of both sides. The football was fast and furious, lacking thought and direction. Alan Curbishley, Charlton's midfielder, who has been missing from their line-up for

Everton have the look of champions

ended Leicester's brief resistance with a 15th-minute goal which emphasized his predatory instincts. Steven, sharp and inventive, hooked a half-cleared corner back across goal and Heath steered home Watson's headed pass.

Leicester barely had time to regain their composure when they slipped further behind. Again it was the product of poor defending with Morgan (helplessly) caught in possession by Sheedy who laid on a pass which Wilkinson easily converted.

Heath was unlucky not to add a third when he pounced on another mistake by Morgan to round Adams, the goalkeeper, only to see Feeley clear his shot off the line. The second half was only two minutes old when Wilkinson had caused enough panic in the Leicester defence to claim his second although O'Neill gave him a hand to inflict more misery on Hamilton's beleaguered side. Everton streamed forward continually and even though they lost Power through injury after 72 minutes, the introduction of Aspinall did not disrupt their rhythm. Three minutes later Heath superbly headed home after magnificent work by Steven to put Everton 4-0 ahead before Leicester began battling for their pride.

SPORT IN BRIEF

FA charge Gilbert

Billy Gilbert and Mick Tait, two of the three Portsmouth players sent off at Sheffield United in the last fortnight, have been charged by the Football Association with bringing the game into disrepute. Automatically banned for their dismissals, they now face fines or additional suspensions from the FA for allegedly making remarks to the referee, Kelvin Morton.

Snowed off

Königsberg (Reuters) - The first two runs in a World Cup two-man bobsleigh race were called off yesterday because of heavy snow. The race will be held today over three runs instead of the usual four.

Leaving home

Brisbane (AFP) - Hana Mandlikova, the Czechoslovak tennis player, confirmed that she has applied for Australian citizenship. The No. 1 seed in the Women's Classic which begins here today said she expected her application to be granted within four months.

Hughes scores

Mark Hughes scored his first league goal in more than two months to keep Barcelona on top of the Spanish league with a 1-0 win in Cadiz yesterday. The Welsh international's goal came in the 49th minute with a header.

Algeria step in

Algiers (AFP) - Algeria has agreed to replace Zambia as hosts for the 1988 African Nations football finals.

Lynch: Zurich win

Liz Lynch, of Dundee, the Commonwealth 10,000 metres champion, won over 5,000 metres in Zurich yesterday in 16min 34sec, beating her compatriot, Yvonne Murray, by 15 seconds. But Jack Buckley, European 5,000 metres champion, lost to Switzerland's Pierre Delezie in the men's 8,000 metre race.

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Various small advertisements and notices on the right side of the page.